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3-way tourism packages planned

CAIRO (AFP) — Israel, Egypt and Jordan plan to launch joint campaigns to promote tourism, Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Belagui said in comments published Saturday. "Joint promotion campaigns will target mainly distant markets, such as the United States, the Far-East and South Africa," he told the daily Al-Ahram. All three countries border the coral-rich Red Sea that attracts scuba divers from around the world. Jordan on Oct. 26 became the second Arab country to sign peace with Israel, after Egypt, which ended the war with the Jewish state in 1979. Mr. Belagui spoke in favour of organising joint campaigns after visiting Israel in September, and highlighted that the Jewish state had "privileged links" with South Africa. The minister also announced that the Ras Al Nagab airport, in the south of the Sinai peninsula, will soon be developed to serve regional tourism. Tourism is one of Egypt's main sources of foreign currency but has been badly hit by a violent campaign launched in March 1992 by Muslim militants to overturn the secular government.



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Arafat accepts Jordanian role in Jerusalem in coordination with PNA Husseini delivers message to Regent, discusses Arafat visit to Jordan subject to King's schedule

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat will visit Amman soon but the date depends on His Majesty King Hussein's schedule.

The way for a visit was cleared after a top-level meeting on Saturday between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Faisal Hussein, Mr. Arafat's special envoy.

Mr. Hussein, who is in charge of the Jerusalem affairs portfolio in the PNA, conveyed the authority's acceptance of Jordan's role as the legal custodian of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem as long as the Holy City remains under Israeli occupation.

But according to a statement issued by Mr. Hussein's office in Jerusalem, the PNA accepts Jordan's role provided that the Jordanian government coordinates with the PNA concerning the issue.

Yet, even if the PNA was asking for the Jordanian gov-

ernment to coordinate its role in Jerusalem with it rather than with Israel Mr. Hussein's stand still reflects an important conciliatory gesture on the part of Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Hussein's message was the first official Palestinian consent to the special Jordanian role that was contained in the July 25 Washington Declaration between Israel and Jordan and the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

The important shift in the PNA's stand comes in response to internal Palestinian pressure on Mr. Arafat not to allow the issue of Jerusalem to be turned into a source of conflict with Jordan. But it was also greatly influenced by recent Jordanian statements that clarified that Jordan will be responsible for the holy shrines until the Palestinians take over Jerusalem. Israel refuses to give its claim on East Jerusalem of its "unified capital."

According to the Jordanian official news agency Petra, Mr. Hussein reiterated in his meeting with Crown Prince

Hassan that the Jordanian role was crucial to safeguard the identity of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

The PNA previously opposed the Jordanian role for fear it will jeopardise Palestinian claims to sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

Mr. Hussein's message has solved a major course of contention between Jordan and the PNA, but Mr. Arafat's visit is seen as crucial to put bilateral relations on a normal track.

According to Palestinian sources, Mr. Arafat wants to make sure that Jordan will coordinate with the PNA any future steps in East Jerusalem.

There was no indication, however, that Mr. Arafat was about to drop his appointment of a Jerusalem mufti in favour of the Jordanian-appointed senior Islamic cleric in Jerusalem.

Saturday's meeting was viewed as important to lay the ground for future Palestinian-Jordanian meetings.

Well-informed political analysts said that the Jorda-

nian side was frank about its concern that the PNA show clarity regarding relations with Jordan.

There were news reports on Saturday that Mr. Arafat will come to Jordan to sign a series of cooperation agreements with Jordan. But Jordanian official sources said that all Palestinian-Jordanian agreements will now have to take into account Jordan's agreements with Israel.

The analysts said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has reversed the situation: Until now Jordan seemed more eager to get the PNA to sign cooperation agreements, now it is the Palestinians who appear more concerned to get some sort of agreements with Jordan.

Mr. Arafat was delaying agreements with Jordan in the hope of getting better deals regarding its role in the West Bank from Israel. But after the Israeli-Jordanian treaty, Mr. Arafat is said to fear that Israel will use its agreements with Jordan to marginalise his role and reduce his manoeuvrability.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday holds talks with Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein (Petra photo)

Regent affirms Jordan's position; Husseini urges continued Jerusalem role

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday reaffirmed Jordan's principled stands concerning its support for the Palestinian people's rights on their national soil.

Speaking at a meeting with Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein at the Royal Court, the Regent said Jordan takes pride in shouldering responsibility

for the holy places in Jerusalem, stressing that the Kingdom was keen on pursuing this role of caring for these holy sites.

Mr. Hussein said Jordan should pursue this role towards safeguarding the holy shrines in Jerusalem. He said these sites remain as a trust of the Islamic Nation in the hands of the Kingdom stressing that there must be no change in the status quo so as to safeguard these holy places.

The meeting was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, His Majesty King Hussein's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem and Prince Hassan's private advisor Mohammad Saqqaf.

PNA rejects renegotiation, insists self-rule deal go ahead

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestine National Authority (PNA) demanded Saturday that Israel implement all clauses of the autonomy accord, including a pull-back of troops from the West Bank.

This came in response to Israeli leaders who said the West Bank's 120,000 Jewish settlers would not be safe if Israeli soldiers withdrew from Palestinian towns on the eve of Palestinian elections, as stipulated by the autonomy agreement.

Israel-PNA negotiations on redeployment and elections were to begin Monday in Cairo.

The PNA cabinet discussed Palestinian negotiating positions Saturday during its weekly meeting and came out strongly against renegotiating the framework of the agreement.

"Israel must implement everything it has agreed upon with the Palestinians," Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo told reporters after the meeting. "Redevelopment and holding elections are at the top of the Palestinian agenda."

Senior Israeli officials said this week that redeployment was not feasible because of an increase in attacks on Israelis, both from the self-

rule areas and from territory under Israeli control.

Or Orr, chairman of parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, proposed to postpone redeployment and in exchange hold elections now and dismantle isolated Jewish settlements ahead of schedule.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin warned that the Cairo talks on redeployment would go nowhere and that it was better to start now to negotiate the final status of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab East Jerusalem.

Under the autonomy accord, such negotiations are to begin in May 1996 at the latest.

The U.S. State Department said Friday it has no evidence that elements of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) controlled by Yasser Arafat were involved in recent attacks on Israelis.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad "have launched a concerted effort to undermine negotiations by killing Israelis and discrediting the authority and effectiveness of the Palestinian Authority," the department report said.

"These terrorist groups do not belong to or operate under the control of the PLO and have openly opposed Arafat because of his commitment to make peace with

Israel," the department said.

Newspapers allowed in

Several newspapers were distributed in the Gaza Strip on Saturday after delays during the week for which Palestinian security officials blamed the self-rule authority.

Gaza sources said the Jerusalem-based Arabic newspapers Al Quds, Al Nahar and the English-language Jerusalem Post were on sale in self-rule areas in the morning.

Distribution of the papers, which normally takes place at dawn, was held up until the afternoon for five consecutive days. Vendors reported sales were down sharply because of the delays.

A PLO official, while not denying that the Palestinian Authority was responsible for the delays, said the authority wanted the papers to be more balanced in their reporting.

Nabil Shaath, member of the Palestinian Authority in charge of planning, said the authority "would like to see a more balanced representation and maybe we need more papers representing different opinions."

PLO officials complained (Continued on page 12)

5 ambassadors present credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday accepted at the Royal Court the credentials of five new ambassadors to the Kingdom. The Regent received in separate meetings the credentials of Ambassador of the Netherlands Robert Hansmeijer, Danish Ambassador Anders Brandstrup, Head of the delegation of the European Union (EU) Yves Gazzo, San Marino Ambassador Jacomo Marria and Peruvian Ambassador Manuel Veramendi. The ceremonies were attended by the King's political advisor, Marwan Al Qassem, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

Mahfouz discharged from hospital

CAIRO (AP) — Nobel Prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz has been released from hospital and is resting at home, his family said Saturday. Mr. Mahfouz, 83, suffered severe stab wounds in the neck when he was attacked Oct. 14 by a suspected Muslim militant on a downtown street. His daughter, Hoda, told the Associated Press by phone that doctors allowed him to return home on Friday and that the family was "with him all the time." She said the stab wounds he suffered were healing. Doctors will visit to keep watch on Mr. Mahfouz, who is diabetic and almost blind. Visitors will be limited to 10-to-15 minutes only, she said.

Egyptian ports closed by storms

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — Egypt's Mediterranean ports of Alexandria and Dumyat have been closed to shipping following three days of storms and torrential rain, port officials said Saturday. Alexandria, the country's biggest port, has been at a standstill for two days while Dumyat in the Nile Delta region was closed Saturday, they said, adding the ports would reopen when weather conditions improved. Storms over northern Egypt have uprooted posts and trees in Alexandria without causing casualties, the official news agency MENA reported. Fishing boats are confined to harbour. Early last month 61 people died in torrential rain and floods which left tens of thousands homeless in Egypt, notably in the southern village of Dronka where the storms sparked a huge oil depot fire.



A municipal garbage collector goes about his job undaunted by the snow that hit Amman early Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Snow paralyzes life in Jordan; more expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — An unusually early blizzard covered Amman in snow Saturday and brought life in the kingdom to standstill. Weathermen predicted a more severe snowstorm to hit Jordan on Sunday.

Schools and government departments were closed and public functions were cancelled as temperatures dipped below freezing point.

The blizzard had dumped up to 15 centimetres of snow on Amman and more than 25 centimetres on outlying cities by mid-afternoon.

It was the Kingdom's worst snowstorm since 1992.

Ali Abanda, head of the Meteorological Department, said it also was the first time in 38 years that snow had fallen on the Kingdom so early in the season.

He said snowfall will continue through Monday and predicted one-metre-deep snow in Amman by then.

The Jordan Valley Water authority said the Kingdom's five major dams were all filled, a welcome development after water shortages caused by last year's dry winter.

The Civil Defence Department reported traffic accidents in Amman and other parts of the Kingdom because of slippery roads, but no casualties. Main highways leading into Amman and

roads connecting the seven hills that make up Amman were all blocked.

At Queen Alia International Airport, civil defence squads cleared runways. Airport officials said traffic at the facility was normal.

Another snow storm was expected on Saturday and Sunday morning covering regions 600 metres above sea level and causing a drop in temperature to minus one degree at night, rising to a maximum of four during the day, according to a spokesman for the department of meteorology.

He told the Jordan Times that the snowstorm, more severe than the one of Friday night and encompassing most areas of Jordan with the exception of Aqaba and the Jordan Valley, would hit the country accompanied by high winds which could reach the speed of up to 100 kilometres per hour.

The spokesman said that the low pressure centred over Syria will continue to affect Jordan Sunday and Monday when the snowfall stops to be replaced by frost.

He warned of poor visibility and slippery roads in most regions of the Kingdom.

The Public Security and the Civil Defence Departments (CDD) warned the public about roads blocked

by snow or affected by landslides, floods and blocked culverts.

Most of the affected roads were in the northern governorates, which include Ajloun, and the southern Shobak areas with more than 1,000 metres above sea level.

Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi Saturday made an inspection tour of the western regions of Amman and supervised the clearing of streets.

Many parts of Amman were reported short of fuel, especially gas.

Several citizens telephoned the call-in radio programme saying that the distributors of gas cylinders could not deliver as they have not received fresh supplies from the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company.

The snow forced the postponement of Sunday's Parliament session until Wednesday.

The season's first snow also fell in Israel and the occupied territories and the Israeli meteorological centre said there was more to come.

Goldy Goshen, duty officer at the centre, said 25 centimetres of snow fell on Mount Hermon in the occupied Golan Heights and 15 centimetres in the West Bank town of Hebron. Light flurries dusted Jerusalem.

U.S. troops board two Iraqi ships

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.S. troops have boarded two Iraqi ships in Gulf waters and held their crews for questioning in a move condemned by Baghdad on Saturday as a violation of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire agreement.

An official spokesman quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said: "Ten soldiers landed on an eastern Algerian ship and opened fire on the crews" on Thursday.

The Pentagon confirmed Saturday that U.S. troops had boarded two Iraqi vessels and questioned their crews but said no shots were fired in either incident.

U.S. troops "targeted water tanker Al Tharar and tugboat Muhajjeran near the off-shore terminal of Al Amiq," 40 kilometres south of the port city of Fao in the Gulf, the Iraqi spokesman said.

He said that some Iraqi sailors were beaten when the boats were intercepted and their crews subjected to five hours of questioning.

And he appealed to the U.N. Security Council and U.N. secretary general Boutros Ghali "to condemn this behaviour and take the necessary measures to end it."

"The new unjustified aggression violates international law and the ceasefire" signed with the U.S.-led coalition at the end of January-February 1991 Gulf war, he said.

"The two boats were taken away with their crews under a U.S. warship escort 20 miles (32 kilometres) to the south," the Iraqi official added.

"Crew members of the two ships were beaten by the U.S. soldiers who interrogated them about what the tanker was carrying... the crews and the boats were freed five hours later."

The latest interception could have been sparked by suspicion the Iraqi vessels were trying to smuggle oil out of the country in violation of the sanctions which have been stifling Iraq's economy since its invasion of Kuwait.

Pentagon spokesman Harold Heilsnis told AFP in one incident, U.S. troops boarded an Iraqi tugboat where a lone crewmember "resisted the boarding party" and was struck with the butt of a rifle and handcuffed.

He was examined by a physician and later released along with the boat.

In a second incident, U.S. troops boarded an Iraqi tanker where four crewmembers also "objected to the boarding."

"They were handcuffed, but none was struck and all were later released along with the vessel, Heilsnis said.

(Continued on page 12)

Lebanon awaits Hariri's talks in Syria

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon teetered on the edge of political and economic instability on Saturday as Prime Minister Rafik Hariri prepared for tough talks in Syria over his planned resignation.

Mr. Hariri, stung by opposition attacks, on Friday announced his irrevocable decision to resign, sending shock waves through Beirut's money markets and causing shares in the company he created to rebuild the war-shattered capital to slide.

But he has not yet formally presented his letter of resignation to President Hrawi and would not do so until after talks Sunday in Damascus, an advisor said.

Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon with 35,000 troops deployed there.

Mr. Hrawi said Saturday he would do everything to dissuade the Saudi-backed billionaire from resigning.

But Mr. Hariri said Saturday in a television report: "I will not go back on my decision which is in the interest of Lebanon. There is no room

for manoeuvre."

And a close advisor said the premier was fed up with "all the broken promises, and there is scarcely a one per cent chance that he will change his mind."

Lebanese analysts said Mr. Hariri's resignation would depend on whether Syria still needed him as prime minister, and if so, if it would give into his demand to sack the pro-Syrian ministers who oppose him.

Syria's leaders are expected to make their decision conscious that Mr. Hariri's resignation could trigger political and economic instability.

The Lebanese central bank spent \$100 million in foreign currency reserves on Friday to support the Lebanese pound after the announcement.

Mr. Hariri is a major shareholder of the real estate and development company Solidere entrusted with rebuilding Beirut following the 1975-1990 civil war.

Accusations of corruption during the setting up of Solidere made by a deputy on

Wednesday, along with other opposition attacks were the driving force behind his resignation.

Last May Mr. Hariri effectively downed tools refusing to carry out any government duties until he was ordered back to work by Syria and denied the right to reshuffle his cabinet.

The incident added fuel to his critics, including Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri, a close ally of Damascus.

Both men are due to meet with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus on Sunday to explain themselves and could be received by President Hafez Al Assad.

As in May, the crisis comes just days ahead of a visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher due on a renewed mission to break the deadlock in Israeli-Syrian talks on Dec. 6.

Mr. Hariri's resignation poses a dilemma for the Syrians who would be presented with a crisis in Lebanon, at a time when they are focusing

on talks with Israel.

The economic problems that would follow Mr. Hariri's resignation would also have a negative impact on hundreds of thousands of Syrian workers in Lebanon.

On the other hand, if Damascus forces Mr. Hariri to stay on without meeting his demands, his opposition would be considerably weakened, thus strengthening Syria's influence in Lebanon.

President Elias Hrawi was quoted Saturday as saying he rejected Mr. Hariri's resignation.

In throwing his weight behind Hariri, who has been in office since October 1992, Mr. Hariri also opened fire on the premier's opponents, accusing them of corruption.

The accusations made in an interview with the conservative daily Al Diyar were unprecedented by a Lebanese head of state.

"I am in solidarity with him. I will ask him not to write his resignation and not to send it to me because it

(Continued on page 12)

Denktash ready to resume Cyprus talks

GENEVA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said on Friday he had told U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali he was ready to resume a dialogue with Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides.

Mr. Denktash also called for the European Union (EU) to put aside Cyprus membership application until a political solution is found for the divided island.

He spoke to reporters after holding 50 minutes of talks in Geneva with the U.N. chief, who is trying to use his good offices to relaunch formal talks stalled since May 1993.

"We are ready to continue talks in order to reach a bizonal, bicomunal federal state with the Turkish guarantee continuing as it is today," the Turkish Cypriot leader said.

"If the parameters necessary for establishing a bizonal, bicomunal federation are accepted by both sides in good will, I think we can settle in short time," Mr. Denktash added.

Dr. Ghali, who met Mr. Clerides in Italy last week, is to see the Cypriot president again on Monday in Budapest at a meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), a U.N. spokesman said.

woman said.

She had no immediate comment on Dr. Ghali's private talks with Mr. Denktash, who heads a break-away Turkish Cypriot republic proclaimed in 1983 and recognised only by Turkey.

The United Nations has backed intercommunal talks between Turkish and Greek Cypriots aimed at reaching a package of confidence-building measures to pave the way to an overall political settlement.

The two communities' leaders held five, informal dinner meetings in Nicosia under U.N. auspices during the month of October, according to Mr. Denktash.

The island has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the northern third in reaction to a short-lived coup in Nicosia by advocates of union with Greece, backed by the military junta then ruling in Athens.

Mr. Denktash, asked about Cyprus application to the 12-member EU, replied it had been made "contrary to the rule of law of Cyprus, without the consent of the Turkish Cypriot partners."

"We hope they (EU) give it a recess to help us continue reasonable discussions in Cyprus," he told reporters.

Defence lawyers quit Geagea trial

BEIRUT (Agencies) — More than 100 lawyers defending former Christian warlord Samir Geagea on Saturday walked out of his trial when Lebanon's highest court rejected their demand to move him from a Defence Ministry cell to a civil jail.

Mr. Geagea, head of the former Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, has been held in solitary confinement at the ministry for eight months since his arrest on murder charges in March.

He protested on Friday against his prolonged solitary confinement, saying he is blindfolded every time he leaves his cell and the treatment makes him feel "half a man."

The first of Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war chieftains to stand trial, Mr. Geagea faces possible death sentences for a church bombing that killed 11 people in February and the 1990 killing of Christian rival Dani Chamoun and his family.

Chief Judge Philip Khairallah turned down the defence request at the start of a hearing in the Chamoun case.

He said the five-man judicial council, Lebanon's highest court, lacked jurisdiction to order Mr. Geagea's transfer to a civil jail.

The lawyers walked out when Mr. Khairallah then refused a defence request to postpone the trial pending a ruling from the State Con-

sultative Council, a judicial body which monitors government decisions.

"We cannot undertake our duties fully towards our client therefore ... we ask the court to allow us to leave," chief defence lawyer Edmond Na'iem said, as he and 120 black-robed colleagues left the heavily-guarded courtroom.

Mr. Na'iem, a former central bank governor, and his colleagues, have complained that they have not been allowed private consultations with Geagea at the ministry to prepare his defence.

After the walkout the court ordered the head of Lebanon's lawyer's syndicate to provide replacement defence lawyers. It gave Mr. Geagea until Dec. 16 to find lawyers or face the court with ones appointed by the syndicate.

Mr. Geagea on Friday for the first time addressed the court judging him for murder charges, and condemned what he described as the "political" nature of the trial.

In the third hearing of the trial that opened on Nov. 19, Mr. Geagea, 42, repeated his demand that he should be moved out of the Defence Ministry basement where he has been kept in near isolation into a regular jail.

The court said it will give an answer to Mr. Geagea's request at the next hearing set for Saturday.

"Continuing to reject my demand could only cast suspicion that the political authority seeks to interfere with justice," Mr. Geagea said.

"Doubts I had on the political authority's intentions have been confirmed," he added.

Mr. Geagea, who looked rested, told the court that he allowed himself to be arrested on April 21 because he was confident in the country's justice.

"I could have walked easily to the Vatican's embassy to get political asylum," he said, referring to the closeness of the Vatican's diplomatic representation to his group's former headquarters.

"This trial could either follow a judicial procedure from start to finish or be political from A to Z, but I refuse in any case to be held for political reasons under judicial cover," Mr. Geagea added.

In the previous hearing, the court turned down Mr. Geagea's defence request to have him transferred to a regular jail, but lawyers decided to renew the demand as one of the five judges was replaced after falling ill.

"I have been held for 250 days in a cell without light ... sometimes blindfolded," Mr. Geagea told the tribunal, known as the judicial council.

"In our cell I can sometimes hear screams," he said, implying that other inmates at a detention centre in the Defence Ministry were being

tortured.

"We should be treated humanely," said Mr. Geagea, whose name spelt terror across Lebanon's Christian heartland when he was leader of the Lebanese Forces, the Christians' main militia which was disbanded after the end of the 15-year civil war in 1990.

Also on trial in the two crimes are four Geagea aides, including his chief of staff Fuad Malek. Fourteen others, including his top security chief Ghassan Touma, are being tried on the same charges in absentia.

Friday's session was devoted to the murder of Chamoun, 56, his half-German wife Ingrid Abdul Noor, and their two sons, Tarek, 7, and Julien, 5. They were killed by unidentified gunmen who broke into their house in suburban Baabda east of Beirut at dawn on Oct. 21, 1990.

Chamoun headed the right-wing National Liberal Party, long at odds with Mr. Geagea's Lebanese Forces, which ruled most of the Christian hinterland north and northeast of Beirut during the civil war.

Mr. Geagea faces the death penalty if convicted of either charge. He told the judges he did not kill Chamoun.

"You should realise that we are innocent and that we have been framed," Mr. Geagea said.

Israeli thinktank urges early talks on Jerusalem

By Steve Leibowitz
The Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM is being "saved for last" by negotiating parties, but Israel's leading think tank recommends putting it on the agenda now.

In addition, a report is being prepared by Dr. Dore Gold of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, who has completed interviews and consultations with experts and political personalities in search of acceptable solutions on Jerusalem's future to both Israelis and Palestinians.

Meanwhile, the Jaffee Centre held a press conference at Beit Agon this week, where it issued a long awaited report on the final status of "Settlements and Borders."

Jaffee Centre director Joseph Alpher, who wrote the study, came to the conclusion that in order to reach an agreement, Israel will have to return 89 per cent of the territories to the Palestinians. This includes all of the Gaza Strip and most of the West Bank. In turn, Israel will annex or at least retain control over much of the area around Jerusalem.

The JCSS solution includes Israeli "annexation" of the Ma'ale Adumim area, preferably as part of Jerusalem. "If this is not possible, then Ma'ale Adumim would remain inside Israel in its new borders with the Palestinian entity. The Ma'ale Adumim area would be the deployment zone for an Israeli army Rapid Intervention Force to the Jordan Valley in case of an invasion from the east attempting to cross the Jordan River."

The report also recommends the annexation of the Givat Ze'ev area north of the Jerusalem corridor, and Beit and Gush Etzion south of the city. This, because "the Jewish majority created by settlement in these areas must be considered," said Mr. Alpher.

He also stated that Jerusalem must be put on the table together with the territories as soon as final status discussions begin. Otherwise, he warns, the Palestinians will make stronger demands on West Bank issues. But if Jerusalem is included in the discussions there is a lot more room to manoeuvre.

Troubled Israeli Labour seeking to regain support from Russians, youth

By Gillian Weiss
The Associated Press

KALANSUA — The Muslim call to prayer drifted into Hanna Hashab's garden cottage as Yever Rainesch surveyed the living room decorated with crocheted doilies and plastic red roses.

"How much does it cost to buy a house in the village?" asked Mrs. Rainesch, who immigrated from Russia to this Arab village in northern Israel.

Ms. Rainesch was interested in property, but she was invited to visit "Ms. Hashab's home with more grand visions in mind."

She was introduced to Ms. Hashab, an Israeli Arab, as part of wide-ranging Labour Party attempt to change attitude towards Arabs and shore up support for its peace policies, especially among young voters and immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Russian immigrants voted 2-to-1, for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's ruling Labour Party in 1992, when it won a narrow victory over

the right-wing Likud bloc. With the next elections less than two years away, Likud has pulled even with Labour in recent polls and Labour leaders fear that one of Israel's most powerful constituencies will swing the balance of power to the right in 1996.

By then, the immigrants will make up 10 per cent of Israel's population of 5.4 million and could theoretically control 12 swing seats in the 120-member parliament.

Aware of that possible electoral clout, immigrant leader Natan Sharansky says he may form a party to run in 1996.

"The immigrants in general feel frustrated and disappointed by the government's treatment of their absorption," Mr. Sharansky said. "More and more immigrants feel alienated and like a second class in Israel."

Past elections indicate Russians almost automatically vote against the establishment and carry anti-Muslim sentiment from ethnic conflicts at home. They are also generally suspicious of land-for-peace deals.

In an effort to change those attitudes, the Golda Meir Association, an educational institute close to the Labour Party, is taking immigrants such as Ms. Rainesch and introducing them to Israeli Arabs in their daily lives.

Earlier this month, 15 immigrants toured Kalansua's mosque and flower hot-houses, attended an Arab-style lunch and met with villagers in their homes.

Addressing the visitors at a trade union clubhouse, union secretary Asad Hadiga said: "We are all Muslims. We support peace as the way of Islam."

However, the Russians were not so easily reassured. One woman said that since the bloody October bus bombing in Tel Aviv by a militant, she feels afraid whenever she sees an Arab.

"We Arabs are not terrorists," responded one middle-aged Arab in a checkered shirt.

Another troublesome group for Labour are the 400,000 younger, first-time voters for whom Israeli control over the West Bank, the

Golan Heights and Arab East Jerusalem is a factor of life.

"They are vulnerable to right-wing principles of having political and historical, if not religious rights to the land," said Stanley Ringler, a Labour official.

In an effort to sway those voters, Labour started sending reserve generals and lawmakers to schools to explain land-for-peace policies.

Labour Legislator Ori Orr, a reserve major general, kicked off the campaign this month by fielding questions at an Israeli high school.

One student questioned MP Rabin's credibility, noting that during the 1992 campaign the prime minister spoke of holding onto the Golan Heights, but has since proposed a significant withdrawal.

Mr. Orr said Syria would first have to make concessions on water rights and its military presence in Lebanon before Israel would even consider giving back land.

"If there are no answers to these questions, there won't be a peace treaty," Mr. Orr reassured the students.

Woman without a country spends nine months in airport

By Mariam Sami
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Eating cheese sandwiches and sleeping across from duty-free shops selling perfume, Khadija Abdul Aziz has spent nine months in the Cairo airport transit lounge — bound for nowhere.

The tall, 34-year-old woman with close-cropped hair says she is a refugee from Angola, but has no passport. Officials have doubts about her claim. The United Nations and five countries are trying to figure out just who she is.

While she waits, this woman without a country spends her days sitting in the

transit lounge, talking to Egyptian airport workers and watching other potential refugees come and go.

"I am devastated in every way and I am living in this whirlpool," she said during an interview in an airport hallway.

Ms. Abdul Aziz says she fled to Portugal in 1985, escaping a massacre in Angola that killed her parents, brother and husband. Her three children were with her, and she was pregnant with a fourth. Her two girls and two boys are now in Italy with a sister.

After working in Spain for seven years, she says, she was deported for having an expired visa. Sudan was her destination because — she

says — she was keeping a Sudanese friend's passport. In Khartoum, the passport was confiscated and she was put on the first flight to Egypt, which sent her back to Cairo.

She's been at Cairo airport since March.

"My children don't know I am in here. I tell them I am still working in Spain and that everything is fine," she told the Associated Press.

It's a sad story — if it's true. Officials wonder about that. She is a Muslim, a religion almost unknown among Angolans, she speaks excellent Arabic. She said she learned it from an airport guard. But her dialect is Sudanese.

The U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) is trying to help her. The Egyptian government would like her to leave, but she has refused to see Angolan diplomats to help verify her identity.

"The Egyptian immigration office said she does not speak any local Angolan dialects but is fluent in Arabic," said Cesar Felizardo, first secretary of Angola's embassy.

So Ms. Abdul Aziz stays in the transit area, about a dozen other people sit in a room, sometimes for a few days, while their status is investigated.

Ms. Abdul Aziz has the only bed in a room reserved for women. One day earlier this week, bundles of clothing were heaped on the floor, and two figures slept on the stained brown carpet under an old gray blanket.

"I had to buy new blankets because it is too cold," Ms. Abdul Aziz said.

The UNHCR has given her 900 Egyptian pounds, or about (\$270) over the past nine months.

"We first heard about Abdul Aziz's case in June... and we gave her money on humanitarian grounds," said UNHCR spokesman Panos Mountzitzis.

He said the UNHCR was also confused about her identity, noting she once said she was Sudanese. She has applied for help from a United States programme for

women, "Women at Risk," but has had no answer. Egypt also says it wants to help.

"It is not Egypt's fault that she is staying at the airport... We want somebody to tell us who she is so that we can send her out," said Hazem Taher of the Foreign Ministry's refugee department.

But Ms. Abdul Aziz stays on, complaining the airport supplies only one cheese sandwich a day.

"If I lived on only that I would have been buried a long time ago," she said.

Asked of her hopes, Ms. Abdul Aziz said she wants to leave — but not to Angola — and to see her children.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan criticises Kenya meeting

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has criticised what it called a "hostile" meeting being organised in the Kenyan capital Nairobi later this month to discuss the 11-year civil war taking place in southern Sudan. The daily Al Engaz Al Watani newspaper quoted a government spokesman as saying the gathering was being organised by opposition elements exiled in London and the United States. One of those named as behind the meeting was former Information Minister Bona Malwal, who is in exile in London. All those involved were "known for their antagonistic attitudes towards Sudan," the spokesman, Mustafa Osman Ismail, said. Mr. Ismail, the secretary general of the government-backed International Peoples' Friendship Council, said the meeting was aimed at strengthening the position of the southern-based rebel movements. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which took up arms in 1983 to end domination of the Christian, animist south by Muslims in the north, is demanding self-determination for the south and an end to Islamic Sharia law in the whole of Sudan. Leaders of Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea have led efforts over the past two years to bring the warring sides together but so far the negotiations have failed to end the conflict.

U.N. anti-drugs campaign put on hold

BAALBEK, Lebanon (AFP) — A U.N. plan to promote alternatives to poppy and cannabis cultivation in Lebanon has been suspended because it could not be funded, the project manager said Friday. Tunisian Mohammed Farajani told local leaders in Baalbek, in the eastern Bekaa Valley, that donor countries would not finance the project because of the "policy followed in the region." He did not elaborate. The United Nations planned a \$4.25-million budget for the project in 1994 and 1995, to be increased to more than \$100 million by 1997. Local leaders who attended the meeting said they believed the cash freeze was aimed at pressuring the Lebanese government into accepting U.S. and Israeli demands to disarm the pro-Iranian Hizbollah movement, which is strong in the region. Hizbollah claims most of the anti-Israeli attacks in the Jewish state's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon. "We hope that things will change in the next stage," added Mr. Farajani, who heads the U.N. rural development programmes in Baalbek and the neighbouring Hermel region.

Bahrain rejects Qatar request on dispute

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain rejected Friday a new request made by Qatar for the International Court of Justice in the Hague to settle the border dispute between the two Gulf states. A Bahraini Foreign Ministry spokesman said Qatar presented its unilateral request on Nov. 30 "following the failure of negotiations" between the two countries aimed at drawing up a joint request to submit to the court. "It is Bahrain's duty to oppose this new request, which does not conform to the decision taken by the International Court of Justice on July 1, 1994," the spokesman said, quoted by the official Gulf News Agency of Bahrain. In July the court gave Qatar and Bahrain until the end of November to present their submissions on the border dispute either jointly or separately. The court had ruled as non-admissible a request from Qatar which it said concerned only part of the dispute. Doha had asked the court three years ago to recognise its sovereignty over the islands of Hawar as well as the waters surrounding Dibal, without mentioning the dispute over the Zubair region on Qatar's nor-west coast which is claimed by Bahrain.

Israeli Arabs start Qatar visit

DUBAI (R) — A delegation of prominent Israeli Arab politicians has arrived in Qatar on the first visit to an Gulf state since Israel's creation in 1948. The official Qatar news agency said they arrived in Doha on Friday night for a one-week visit and were met at the airport by municipal officials. Israeli Arabs have been cut off from the Arab World because they hold Israeli passports. The 12-member delegation of politicians, dignitaries, heads of municipal councils and businessmen from Israel's one million strong Arab minority were officially invited by Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al Thani. Delegation members said in Amman before leaving for Qatar that they would meet the emirate's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, and senior Qatari officials and discuss tourism, educational, cultural and economic cooperation.

Libya bars Palestinians from returning

TUNIS (R) — About 30 Palestinian residents of Libya are stranded on the border with Egypt because Tripoli refuses to let them back in, diplomats said on Saturday. The Palestinians, most of them workers and students, were returning through Egypt from holidays in the Palestinian self-rule areas. They were stuck at a place called Assollum. Some have families still in Libya, the sources added. "Libya has always claimed it is the land of all Arabs and our contacts with the authorities are continuing," an official at the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Tripoli told Reuters. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, angered by the self-rule deal signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel in September 1993, has said he plans to deport thousands of Palestinians living in Libya to the Gaza Strip. Palestinians said so far the threat has not been implemented. An estimated 20,000 Palestinians live in Libya. Libya was once a main supporter of the PLO but three years ago ended all financial aid to the PLO and it has reinforced its relations with radical Palestinian groups based in Damascus.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19
PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Pollards
17:30 Un Four Tous
18:00 Montagne
18:30 Le Vent Des Moissons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 Mediaset Navy
20:00 The Phantom Horsemen
20:30 Quantum Leap
21:10 Galactica
22:00 News in English
22:30 Scarier
23:20 International Ballet

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
06:12 (Sunrise) Duha
11:25 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
16:36 Maghreb
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swethel, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 626366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775361
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel.
652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
924328
German-speaking Evangelical Church
Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Light Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology.
Temperatures will continue to
drop steadily with snow expected to
fall in all parts of the Kingdom
except the Jordan Valley and
Agaba. In Agaba, skies will be
cloudy with a chance of rain. Winds
will be southerly active and seas
high.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman -3/4
Agaba 7/14
Desert 0/14
Jordan Valley 5/10

Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362
Dr. Amal Ashab 622597
Dr. Sa'ad Ali 788285
Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 736072
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778334
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairokhi pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsat pharmacy 637660
Nairokhi pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Shogari 246140
Alquds pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 983000
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

AMMAN 4, Agaba 16 Humidity
readings: Amman 92 per cent,
Agaba 56 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 771211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Aldali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority
..... 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport
..... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 64262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeizani 664174
Shmeizani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musheir Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubirun 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
IBIB 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)98323
Zarqa National Hospital
..... (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990900
IBIB 845845
Princess Ruana Hospital (02)72555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72725
Jib Al Nafes Hospital (02)24710
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT
This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia In-
ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200,
5, where it should always be ver-
ified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
(Terminal 1)
06:35 Bangkok (RJ)
08:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:50 Damascus (RJ)
09:55 Larnaca (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:20 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
18:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:40 Athens (RJ)
19:35 Vienna (RJ)
20:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
20:30 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:35 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:25 Moscow (SU)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
22:25 Istanbul (TK)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
(Terminal 1)
06:30 Agaba (RJ)
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
10:55 Vienna (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:50 Rome (RJ)
12:50 Athens (RJ)
20:00 Agaba (RJ)
20:20 Riyadh (RJ)
20:40 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 New Delhi (RJ)
21:25 Damascus (RJ)
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:40 Cairo (RJ)
22:00 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ

AT A BENEFIT BAZAAR: Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Al Abdullah Saturday opens a charity bazaar organised by the Jerash Lions Club at Al Hussein Youth City. The bazaar, which displays products by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHIF) and several charity organisations, includes embroidered, rag, traditional costumes, knit-wear, Christmas gifts and traditional dishes (Petra photo)



Japanese-French consortium wins \$60m contract to build fertilizer plant

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — A consortium of Japanese and French companies Saturday was awarded a contract for the construction of a compound fertilizer plant by the Nippon Jordan Fertilizer Company, according to the Arab Potash Company (APC).

The 300,000-metric-tonne per year compound fertilizer plant will cost \$60 million and is expected to be completed in 24 months to produce compound fertilizer (NPK), diammonium phosphate (DPA) and various formulations for export to Japan, the APC said.

This project, said the APC, comes as a result of an extended relationship between Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the APC on one side, and several Japanese companies who are concerned with the marketing and industrialisation of fertilizers on the other.

The Nippon Jordan Fertilizer Company was established as a joint venture between companies from Jordan and Japan following the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to Japan in 1990. The Japanese companies participating in the project are the National Federation of Agricultural Associations, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, Asahi Industries Company, and Mitsubishi Corporation.

The project will be built in Aqaba on a 55,000 square-metre plot which is located near the industrial complex of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company within the assigned free zone area, thus enjoying the benefits and exemptions that are granted by the Free Zone Law.

JPMC and APC will supply the project with the annual necessary basic raw materials comprising 80,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid, 38,000 tonnes of sulphuric acid, 80,000 tonnes of potash and 50,000 tonnes of ammonia.

According to the APC, the project would bring many benefits to the Jordanian economy and labour sector. It will create more than 100 jobs with various fields of specialisation, and will form a launching pad for Jordanian-related companies to export new products to the Japanese market.

It said the project will also provide the Jordanian side with additional know-how from the Japanese side in producing fertilizers, especially compound, in a step to fortify Jordan's position as a major fertilizer producer in the region, in addition to securing foreign currencies for the Jordanian economy and attracting more Japanese and foreign investors.

Japan views Jordan as 'key' country for peace, prosperity in Middle East

Envoy says Tokyo wants to advance 'valuable' ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of the national day reception celebrating the birthday of Emperor Akihito, who will turn 61 on Dec. 13, Japanese Ambassador Fuji Ikeda Saturday issued a statement which highlights the 40-years of Japanese-Jordanian diplomatic ties and talks of continued Japanese assistance to the Kingdom.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Ikeda's statement: "The Japanese imperial family and the Jordanian royal family have established and maintained a close and warm relationship based on mutual respect and friendship. His Majesty King Hussein visited Japan four times, most recently in 1989 to attend the funeral of the late Emperor Showa. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited Japan three times, most recently in 1990 to attend the enthronement ceremony of the emperor. The crown prince and princess of Japan, now the emperor and empress, visited Jordan in 1976.

"In Early 1995, their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako will pay an official visit to Jordan upon the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor.

"Along with the warm relationship established between the two royal families, Japan and Jordan have developed close ties in various fields. These ties have recently received a fresh momentum with the visits by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and Her Royal Highness Princess Haya in 1993. Her Royal Highness Princess Haya also visited Japan in September 1994 to participate in the Asian Olympic Games held in Hiroshima.

"This year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Jordan in 1954. It was, however, in 1974 that the two countries opened embassies respectively in Tokyo and Amman.

"Since then, Japan and Jordan have successfully developed most friendly and close ties in a relatively short period of time. Needless to say, the cordial relations between Japan and Jordan are of mutual benefit to the two countries and their peoples."

"Japan wishes to maintain and further promote its valuable ties with Jordan, the key country for peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

"It is thus hoped that the existing relationship will be further broadened and deepened by the efforts of both sides in order to cater for the new era of peace which is taking place in the region.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

LUTE AND NOVEL RECITALS

- ★ Late recital by Salman Shukr at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Novel recital by Hani Al Titi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Aladdin" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Faam.
- ★ Exhibition of Muna Saudi's private collection of contemporary arts and Jordanian antiques at Abdoun Village.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Akram Naji Shaker at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).
- ★ Exhibition of Pakistani art entitled "Colours and Forms" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Motor show '95 at the International Motor Exhibition, airport highway.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Saadi Al Kaabi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by 'Amer Khalil at Baladna Art Gallery.

Regional scholars meet to uncover historical, cultural facts of area

Princess Sumaya inaugurates colloquium on the study of ancient civilisations' ceramics

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Inaugurating the colloquium on Byzantine and early Islamic ceramics in Syria and Jordan from the fourth to the eighth centuries A.D. Saturday Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan said joint programmes of collecting data on a regional level concerning historical means and forms of ceramics production will help in establishing a library of categorised archaeological symbols.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan Saturday listens to an address by one of the participants to the colloquium on the study of the ceramics of ancient civilisations in the region attended by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan (Petra photo)

Deputising for His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Regent, Princess Sumaya said the cultural dimension of the forthcoming European-Mediterranean summit to be held next year in Madrid highlights the importance of the request made by Prince Hassan to hold an extraordinary meeting of archaeological schools to focus on universal civilisations and their roots in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The Princess said that this international colloquium is held at a stage of peace building and rapprochement among cultures which is contributed to by such events.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan addressed the gathering of scholars saying that it was a pleasure to see that this distinguished group includes many international experts who are studying an important face of the region's heritage using the timely theme of regional cooperation in the field of archaeological research, bringing together archaeologists from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, as well as Britain and France.

"These countries that share so much in common can form a complementary and integral unit for research and study of our common past for archaeologists from all over the world," he said.

ACC grants JD 13m to farmers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Since the start of 1994, the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has to date granted loans totalling JD 13 million to 5,338 farmers and land developers, according to ACC Director General Mohammad Arabiyat.

TCC issues payment deadline to 18,000 delinquent subscribers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Saturday partially suspended telephone services to nearly 18,000 subscribers within the greater Amman area for their failure to pay their bills.

TCC Director General Walid Dweik said that the delinquent subscribers owe the TCC nearly JD 3 million which should be paid within a week from Saturday, Dec. 3, otherwise the corporation will completely cut telephone services.

According to Mr. Dweik, a partial suspension means that the subscriber is able to receive calls, but can not place calls. He said bills must be paid at the TCC main centres in Amman and the suburbs.

Fog blamed for road collision

Ministers visit victims of Qatraneh accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Poor visibility Saturday was blamed for a road collision between a bus transporting tourists from Petra to Amman and a dump truck heading for Wadi Mousa, but no injuries were reported, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The accident, which occurred between Shobak and Wadi Mousa, caused material damage only, Petra said.

Meanwhile Health Minister Aref Batayneh and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Saturday visited hospitalised victims of Thursday's fatal road accident on a desert road in the south.

Six of the 28 injured are being treated at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman. According to an Al Bashir administrator, Fuad Sour, the five women and one man were in fair condition.

Don't Miss The Last Two Days

Bani Hamida Exhibition

"DECEMBER"

Forest greens, majestic blues, glowing reds, warm aubergines, subtle ambers and earthtones give warmth to the many settings displayed in the Bani Hamida House.

At the Bani Hamida House
Saturday, November 26th - Monday, December 5th
8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

For information please call 658696/7

U.S., East Europeans discuss Russian fears on NATO plans

BRUSSELS (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with foreign ministers from 11 former East Bloc states Saturday over their chances for membership in NATO and how to win Russian support for its former satellites joining the Western alliance.

"We discussed the importance of integrating Russia into Europe and ensure there is not a new bloc or a new wall," Mr. Christopher told reporters following the meeting.

He said the Atlantic alliance had to do "anything we can do to promote better relations and to reassure" Russian that NATO expansion to former Warsaw Pact nations would not harm Russian security interests.

In addition, Mr. Christopher said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would only accept new members progressively and on a "case by case" basis, but stressed Russia could not be allowed to have the "right of veto" on who joined.

He was speaking after consultations with foreign ministers from Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the three Baltic states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Poland was represented by its ambassador in Brussels, but Mr. Christopher had already met Warsaw's foreign minister for talks Friday.

Estonia's Foreign Minister Yuri Luik stressed no state wishing to join should be left behind.

"We heard from Christopher that the United States will continue its very active policy for enlargement," Mr. Luik said, adding that the former Soviet satellites' desire for membership in both NATO and the European Union went "very much hand in hand."

NATO decided Thursday to open an internal debate on how to expand eastwards as far as Russia itself, but an angry Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev reacted by refusing to endorse an

individual Russia-NATO partnership agreement and a framework accord on alliance relations with Moscow.

Despite long talks early Friday between Mr. Kozyrev and Mr. Christopher, neither side would soften their position.

The rift between NATO and Russia over the eastern states joining the alliance constitutes a surprising rebuff for Washington, which has been pushing hard for NATO expansion eastwards. Washington believed it had in principle won support for its stance from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton are to discuss the thorny issue when they meet Monday and Tuesday at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) summit in Budapest.

Mr. Christopher and his Eastern and Central European partners also touched on European integration at their meeting Saturday, and discussed how to bolster the

CSCE's capacity to prevent and resolve regional conflicts.

Mr. Christopher said the ministers meanwhile backed the idea of progressive integration into NATO according to select criteria.

The Western alliance has yet to come up with a time frame for admission into NATO or indicate who is best placed to join, but the so-called Visegrad states — the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia — are believed to head the list.

A NATO study on the criteria prospective members will have to fulfil and the cost of the integration of their respective armies is set to be drawn up and presented to the states concerned by the end of next year.

Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu said each application would have to be judged "each on its own merits" but stressed that NATO, as it expanded, had to "ensure a regional balance of power."



A Philippine navy search and rescue team pulls Cebu City by navy frogmen about 100 feet a body recovered from the sunken ferry boat under water Saturday (AFP photo)

2 passengers rescued a day after ferry disaster in Manila Bay

MANILA (R) — Two passengers from the Philippine ferry Cebu City were rescued by fishermen Saturday, more than 24 hours after the vessel collided with a container ship in Manila Bay and sank.

Coast Guard spokesman Amado Samante said the two were rescued separately floating off the coast in lifeboats. He said he had no further details.

Their recovery takes the number of people rescued after Friday's disaster to 453. At least 37 people were confirmed dead as teams of divers scoured the wreck for more than 100 people still missing.

The corpse of a woman shot to the surface of Manila Bay as frogmen freed the body from the interior of the vessel and allowed it to float up among debris and bags of onions and apples.

Two more bodies were spotted trapped under twisted steel in the wreck while the poorly equipped divers were trying to clear a way to the cabins where more victims are believed to have drowned when the ship went down before dawn.

"It's pitch black inside and very risky. You may get lost there and we don't have enough flashlights," said the commander of the divers, navy Lieutenant Audi Esquilola.

"Our first job is to clear the way to the cabin. Baggage and other things are blocking our way."

The 2,452-tonne Cebu City is lying on its left side in about 25 metres of water at the mouth of Manila Bay, where it collided with the Singaporean-registered Kota Suria.

The divers said they needed cutting equipment to get into some of the cabins. "Our divers are hammering at the portholes to open them and retrieve the bodies," Mr. Samante said.

The accident, the worst to hit the disaster-prone Philippine shipping industry since 1988, happened as the Cebu

City headed for the central island of Bohol and the Kota Suria made its way into port.

Ferry owners William Lines Inc said the vessel was struck midbay by the 12,549-tonne Kota Suria in the busy shipping lane between Corregidor Island and the southern rim of Manila Bay.

Scores of passengers managed to scramble on to the Kota Suria before the ferry sank about 20 minutes after the collision.

Others plunged into the sea and were picked up alive, but many of the 607 passengers, crew and their families were feared to have gone down with the ship.

Senior William Lines Captain Telesforo Solda told reporters the company would continue to search for bodies and survivors until all aboard the vessel were accounted for.

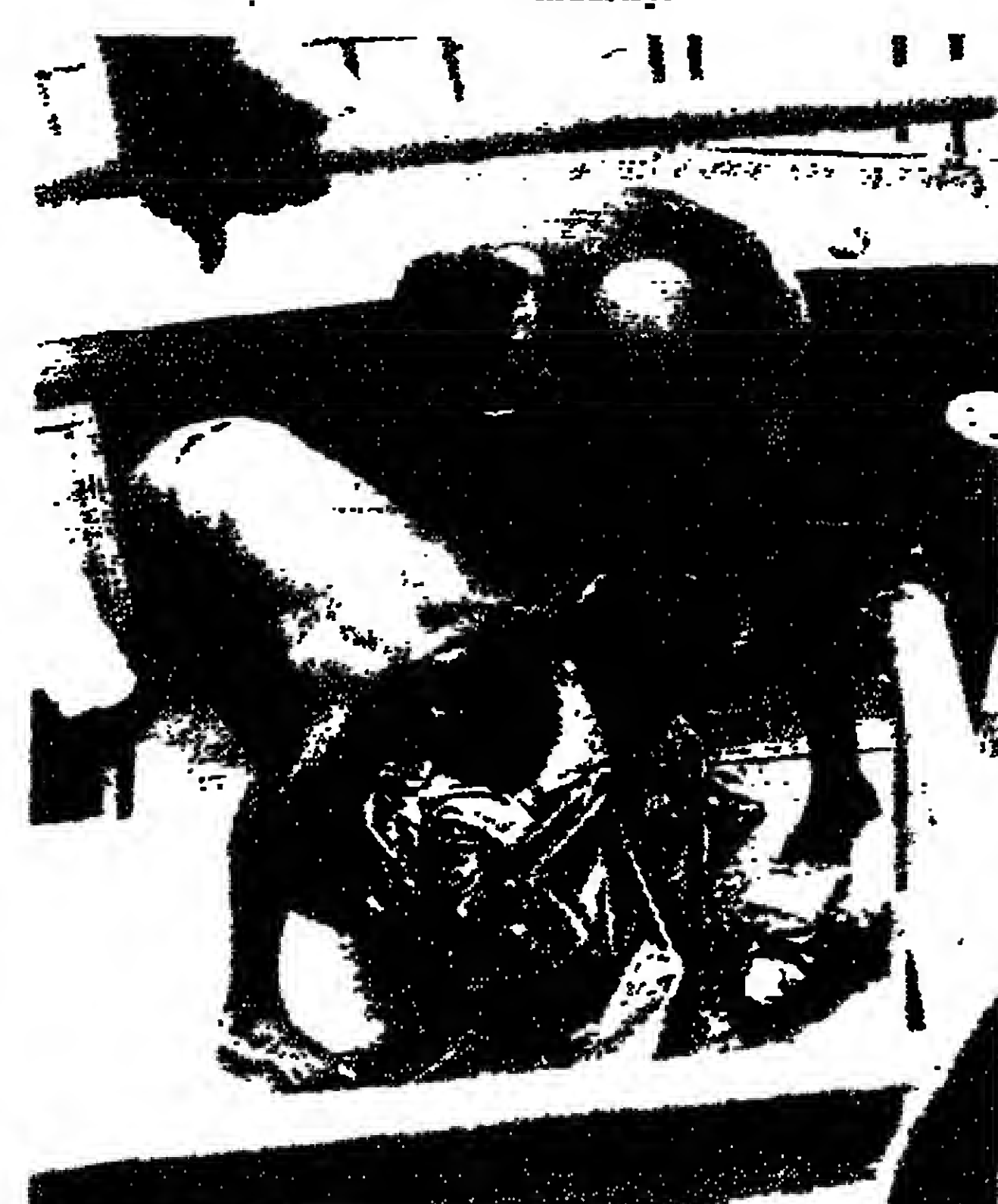
The company has offered the families of the dead \$2,000 compensation for each victim.

William Lines Vice-President Eugene Espedilla put the replacement value of the vessel at \$1.7 million to \$2 million. The 22-year-old ship was insured with local insurance company Prudential Guarantee and Insurance.

The Coast Guard has told the Kota Suria and its Filipino captain, Paquito Mirafior, that it cannot leave Manila until a marine inquiry into the disaster has been completed, which could take a month.

"As of this time nobody can say who was to blame," the spokesman said.

The accident, which happened in good weather conditions, is one of a long series to hit the Philippine shipping industry.



A Philippine navy search and rescue team places a body of a ferry disaster victim in a cadaver bag as navy frogmen search for missing passengers and crew in the sunken ship about 100 feet underwater (AFP photo)

Priest has do-it-yourself demon detection test

ROME (R) — Possessed by the devil? An Italian priest prescribed an at-home, do-it-yourself test to distinguish demon possession from mere psychological malady. "Put a holy image or a bead from the rosary under the bed of the person, or else drop some holy water in his breakfast drink," said Monsignor Corrado Balduino who has studied demon possession for 35 years. "If, after the test, the person persists in his disrespect towards all that is holy, then you would have a grave clue of diabolic possession," he said. But Fr. Balduino, who made his remarks at a conference called "the challenge of Belzebub" at the Vatican-sponsored pontifical Salesian University, said demon possession was rarer than often thought. "Of 1,000 people who may appear to be possessed by demons, only 20 or 30 really merit testing," he said.

Brazilian woman burns fortune to avoid hell

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — An unemployed cleaner burned a lottery ticket that would have won her nearly \$60,000 because a preacher told her she would go to hell if she accepted the money, a Brazilian newspaper reported. Maria Benozia Nascimento, a 39-year-old mother of seven in the northeastern city of Fortaleza, said members of her Evangelical Assembly of Gold Congregation chanted "burn, burn, burn" after the preacher said she would die in a plane crash and go to hell if she went to claim her prize in Sao Paulo. Nascimento's husband beat her and left home when he discovered what she had done, the Jornal Do Brasil newspaper said. The woman's only hope is that the organisers of the television lottery will manage to trace the number of the winning ticket to her, the newspaper said.

Security guard bites policeman

SENS, France (AFP) — A security guard has been given a one-month suspended sentence for biting a policeman, after deciding against allowing his dog to do so, officials said. The incident occurred in August when the security guard, on duty in a car park, was approached by policemen who suspected he was up to no good with some cars. An altercation ensued, during which the guard threatened to set his German shepherd dog on them. He decided against it and instead bit a finger of one of the policemen, leading to his conviction.

Cook fined for condoms in chocolate

DARMSTADT, Germany (AFP) — A pastry cook famed in Darmstadt for his erotic creations was fined 8,000 marks (\$5,300) for filling his chocolate pralines with non-edible condoms. The patissier, known for his male organs in marzipan and bunny rabbits in a state of erection, pleaded that his creations should be regarded more as amusing gifts than as foodstuffs. An expert witness told the court that the condom-filled pralines had a "strong taste of rubber."

Palace to rent

BLANTYRE (AFP) — The new Malawi government, stuck with a \$100 million palace built by ousted dictator Hastings Kamuzu Banda, is looking for ideas on how it can be used to turn a profit. An independent committee set up by President Bakili Muluzi, who won the small southern African country's first multiparty elections in May, has recommended the palace be used commercially. Investors are being sought. Standing on 555 hectares (1,332 acres) outside the capital Lilongwe, the palace has some 300 airconditioned rooms including a presidential wing, several suites for visiting heads of state, offices, libraries and a banquet hall that seats 600 people. An expatriate horticulturist heads a team of 300 gardeners who tend the grounds, which also hold 176 houses for junior staff and 16 homes for palace executives. One suggestion is that it could be turned into a hotel and casino complex. The committee said in a report that the palace, which took 20 years to build, would cost a million dollars annually to maintain.

Hungary rail crash toll hits 29

BUDAPEST (AFP) — The death toll in Friday's train crash in Szajol, central Hungary, has risen to 29, with 56 people injured, the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) reported Saturday.

Earlier reports put the number of dead at 21, with 44 injured in the crash in which two coaches smashed into station buildings, demolishing some.

"The train was running at more than 100 kilometres an hour when it hit the station building like a bomb," a railworker who witnessed the accident said.

The rail coaches hit part of the building housing a restaurant which was busy at the time, the witness said.

A railworkers' office in the same building and another station building were also badly damaged.

Early reports indicated a

haza in east Hungary, left the rails as the train sped through Szajol station. The second coach derailed, pulling the next three with it. The loose coaches smashed into station buildings, demolishing some.

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A railworkers' office in the same building and another station building were also badly damaged.

Early reports indicated a

signaling error and said the points outside the station had been wrongly set.

Transport Minister Karoly Lotz who went to the scene with Interior Minister Gabor Kunce did not rule out "technical problems."

The injured were freed by rescue teams and taken to hospitals in the neighbouring towns of Debrecen and Karcag.

Police in Szajol have opened a special telephone line for relatives of the dead and injured.

In a statement, the Hungarian Railworkers' Union criticised the authorities for failing to "pay enough attention to the railways."

Georgian opposition party leader killed

TBILISI (R) — A Georgian opposition leader, Georgy Chanturia, was killed Saturday morning and his wife, parliament member Irina Sarishvili, badly wounded when gunmen opened fire on their car, a police spokesman said.

Valerian Gogolashvili, chief spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said gunmen opened fire on the pair's car in the centre of Tbilisi from three sides, using a machinegun and several automatic rifles.

Mr. Chanturia, head of the National Democratic Party, died on the way to a hospital and Mrs. Sarishvili was in a very serious condition, the spokesman said.

Their driver was also wounded. The attackers fled and police have launched an investigation.

Mr. Chanturia's party, prominent opposition grouping, was at odds not only with the current authorities but also with militant and radical opposition groups.

Mrs. Sarishvili was deputy prime minister for several months in 1993. She then resigned.

In a separate development Saturday, a powerful blast partially destroyed a railway bridge some 50 kilometres from Tbilisi, Georgian railway officials said, disrupting the only route through which neighbouring Armenia was getting fuel and food supplies.

6th person held in Indian spy case

NEW DELHI (R) — India's biggest spy case widened with the arrest of a sixth person suspected of helping to steal sensitive rocket science secrets for foreign agents, media reports said Saturday.

Police Friday arrested an industrialist with ties to the alleged kingpin of the suspected spy network, the reports said.

Sudhir Kumar Sharma,

who runs a steel factory in the southern Indian city of Bangalore, was detained in Trivandrum, site of a research centre belonging to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Two ISRO scientists from Trivandrum, on India's southern tip, had already been arrested in the probe, along with two women from the Maldives and a repre-

sentative of the Russian space agency Glavkosmos.

Defence experts said Friday that another 20 senior scientists were suspected of involvement in the espionage case, which they said could seriously harm India's rocket and missile programmes.

The Times of India newspaper said two other senior scientists were expected to be arrested soon.

Taiwan ruling party ahead in elections

TAIPEI (R) — Voters turned out in large numbers in Taiwan's elections Saturday and early signs suggested the ruling Nationalist Party might emerge at least partially victorious from its biggest ever electoral test.

Polling was calm as voters focused on the biggest electoral issue — whether this island should reunite with China or seek independence from it.

"The turnout will probably exceed the 72 per cent in the last parliamentary elections but it probably won't reach 80 per cent," said Hsu Kuei-Lin, secretary-general of the Central Election Commission.

State television said initial results in the key race for the island's governor showed Nationalist candidate James Soong with 1.08 million votes compared to his nearest rival Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Chen Ding-Nan's 790,179 votes in counting so far. There is from an electorate of 11.18 million in the gubernatorial race.

The post of governor, which holds considerable power, is the highest position over to face a popular vote on Taiwan.

Voters were also choosing the mayors of the two biggest cities, Taipei and Kaohsiung, provincial assemblymen and city councillors.

In Taipei, initial results showed the DPP candidate Chen Shui-Bian had opened up an extensive lead over National incumbent Huang Te-Chou. The Nationalists appeared to be leading in Kaohsiung.

The reports did not say what percentage of the votes had been counted.

The candidate elected governor of Taiwan Saturday will find himself running a province, which, curiously, is also a country. The apparent contradiction arises from the days when this island of 21 million people used to claim to rule all mainland China and saw its own territory as just one province.

But although it still clings



A Taipei voter carefully studies her ballot to elect mayor and members of the Taipei City Council Saturday at a polling station installed at a temple before casting it. The city of Taipei elected its first mayor since 1946 and the southern Kaohsiung city had its last mayoral poll in 1979. The island province is also holding its first gubernatorial poll in 45 years (AFP photo)

to a definition of itself as a province, it is in reality a country which guides its own autonomous domestic and external policies.

All this makes the post of provincial governor here considerably more important than its title might suggest. Only the cities of Taipei and Kaohsiung are outside its jurisdiction.

Since Taiwan lifted martial law in 1987 it has held some elections, including one in 1992 for the Legislative Yuan, or parliament.

Saturday's poll, involving a record 13.9 million potential voters, gave people their first chance to choose the administrators who have a day-to-day impact on their lives.

President Lee Teng-Hui said in a press release from his office that the election "shows we are implementing local autonomy and giving the people sovereignty."

"The significance of this is very weighty," he added.

At polling stations and on radio stations voters returned to main issue dividing the Nationalists from their biggest opposition, the DPP, which advocates independ-

ence from China.

Taiwan's Nationalists lost a civil war on mainland China in 1949 and fled to Taiwan. China still regards Taiwan as a rebel-held province and has not ruled out using force if Taiwan declares independence.

The Nationalists favour eventual reunification.

"I voted for stability and reunification with China," said one old man who gave only his surname, Lin. "If you vote for independence, China is going to invade. That would be really chaotic."

"China could eat us up in a week," added Lin, who was born on this island just 220 kilometres from China's south east coast.

The elections will not decide the reunification or independence issue, but will provide a test of popular sentiment ahead of the first presidential elections scheduled for early 1996.

Some 70,000 police stood by to quell feared violence but voting passed off calmly. Vying parties took out advertisements to blast each other.

Clinton, Republican leaders discuss cooperation

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton held his first meeting Friday with Republican leaders of the new opposition-dominated Congress in a bid to hammer out a strategy for cooperation with the conservative majority.

The meeting with incoming Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich came after Mr. Clinton won strong bipartisan support for the approval of the GATT world trade deal this week.

"It was a very positive and I thought encouraging conversation about the general direction of American policy," Mr. Gingrich told reporters following the one-hour meeting.

Sen. Dole appeared upbeat alongside Mr. Gingrich and said he had emphasised during the talks the need to move quickly on issues of agreement but he did not give details.

"I think the president understands that we are going to hit the ground running," he said.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the three men focused on agenda items that were not controversial, stating that the meeting was an opportunity "to try and stake out some common ground."

Sen. Dole also stated that Clinton "thought it was a good idea" that there be more consultation with Congress on foreign policy, adding that the legislature was at times left "in the dark" on the administration's approach to international

issues.

The request that Congress be able to have more input on foreign policy came after Sen. Dole travelled to NATO headquarters in Brussels and to London to present his views on Bosnia and make a case for direct intervention in the conflict.

Mr. Clinton, whose party suffered a humiliating defeat in midterm elections to Congress earlier this month, warned ahead of the talks that he was not prepared to cooperate with Republicans at any cost.

"I hope and believe we can cooperate with the new Congress, but cooperation for me cannot mean abandoning principle," Mr. Clinton said.

He cited his administration's efforts to reduce the deficit as an example of such a principle, stating that he would not resume the kind of "irresponsible" spending he said marked the previous 12 years of Republican administration.

The statement amounted to a flat-out rejection of Republican demands to cut taxes while boosting defence spending and restarting the ruinously expensive Star Wars anti-missile system.

"I will oppose any efforts to take us back on those issues," he said.

"We worked too hard to build an economic recovery and a job strategy and to reduce the deficit," he said.

Mr. Gingrich acknowledged that there would be differences between the two branches of government, stating: "We agreed as a principle that there would be

areas where we would disagree."

He said the new Congress will have "ten months to prove we can get real things done for America on a bipartisan basis."

Mr. Gingrich cited three areas of cooperation between Democrats and Republicans: Boosting state powers, extend to Congress laws from which it is currently exempt and a constitutional amendment that would give the president the right to veto specific spending provisions in a budget bill.

Under the current constitution, the president can only veto the entire budget.

The meeting, which was delayed due to Sen. Dole's heavy schedule, was held after Mr. Clinton met with the Democratic minority leaders of the two chambers of Congress.

House Democrat David Bonior said the talks focused on "some of the mistakes we made" in the Nov. 8 elections that led to a Republican takeover of the two houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

A USA-Today poll out Friday showed a majority of Americans still favoured Republicans and gave Democrats their worst rating since such surveys began in 1956.

The Republicans, readjusting their image after triumphing in the U.S. elections, Friday made an aggressive southern conservative their deputy leader in the Senate under Sen. Dole.

The razor-thin 27-26 Republican majority favouring Trent Lott was a setback for

the more middle-road Sen. Dole who had wanted his current deputy, Alan Simpson of Wyoming, re-elected and reflected the big shift to the right in Congress.

The Democrats picked moderate Thomas Daschle of South Dakota as their Senate leader to replace the retiring George Mitchell of Maine.

Even that result suggested a tough road ahead for President Bill Clinton, widely blamed by many of his fellow Democrats for a sweep that gave the Republicans control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

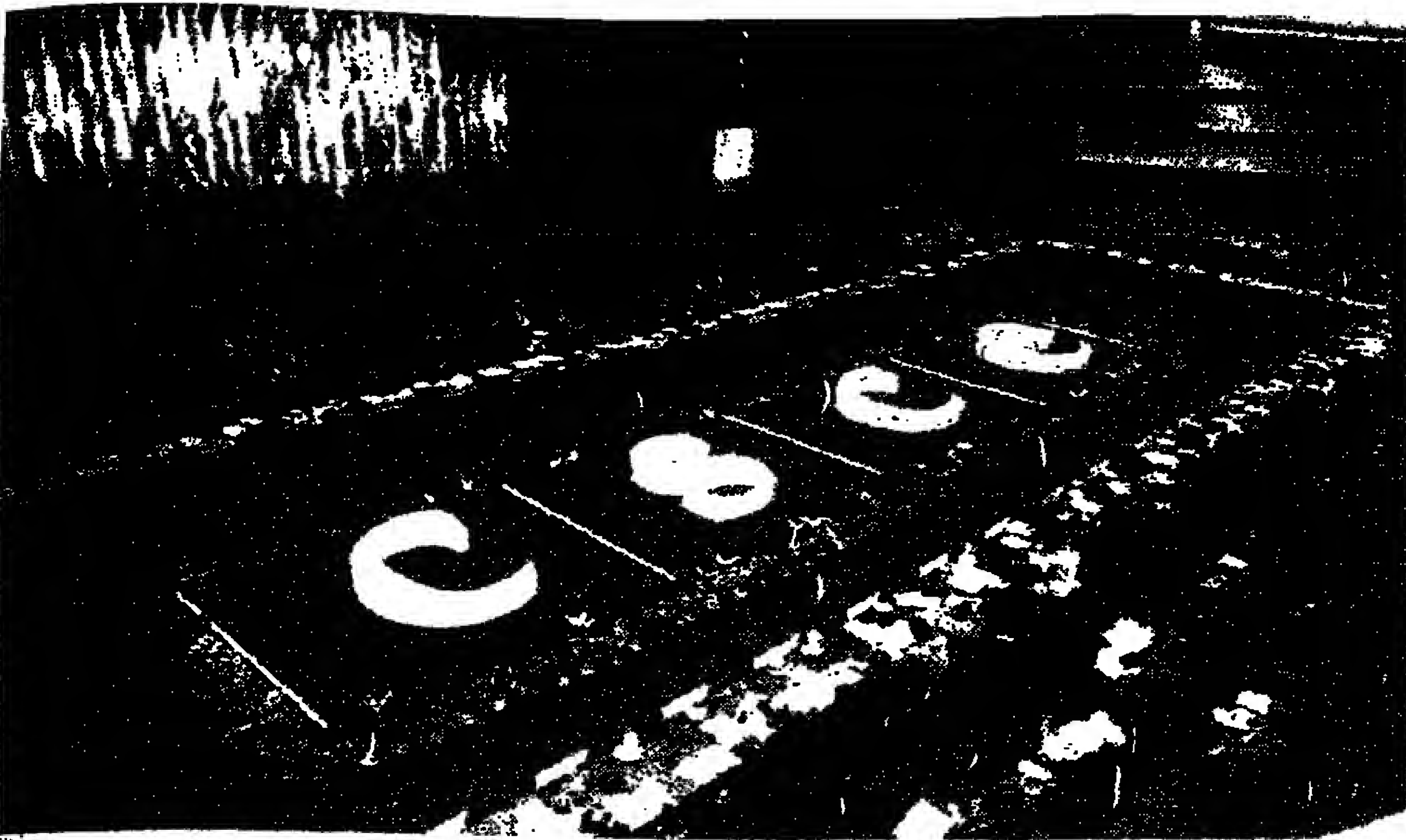
Sen. Daschle, who nosed out Connecticut's Christopher Dodd by a vote of 24 to 23, said Democrats would cooperate with Mr. Clinton where possible but his first responsibility was to shape a clear, separate identity for Senate Democrats.

"We will not be led by them (the administration), we will not be viewed as an extension of them," he said.

Sen. Dole was unopposed to continue in the leadership post.

Sen. Lott, from Mississippi, was supported by Texan Phil Gramm, a potential rival to Sen. Dole for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996. Sen. Lott is in the assertive, night-wing mould of House Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich and, like Mr. Gingrich in the outgoing Congress, was once deputy Republican leader in the House of Representatives.

Sen. Lott said he wanted to work with Senate Democrats and forge a close relationship



CSCE delegation members, who are already present in Budapest, prepare their work in the conference hall of the Budapest Congress Centre. The two-day CSCE conference will start Monday (AFP photo)

CSCE summit struggles with Russia, Bosnia

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — The chaos in Bosnia and Russia's problems in dealing with the new conflicts and tensions of the post-cold war world threaten to disrupt a European security summit which opens here Monday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and 50 European leaders are supposed to draw up a blueprint for security in the 21st century at the two-day summit, based on principles of international law and respect.

"This is a historic opportunity to build a lasting security order for the whole of Europe," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said this week.

"The tragedy of the war in Bosnia does not diminish our responsibility to build a comprehensive European security architecture," said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

But the ideals of providing equal security for all and preventing new aggression have been shattered by the failure to end the war in Bosnia and the return of conflict to other areas of the continent, particularly the former Soviet Union.

The summit of the 53-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), widely criticised as an unwieldy talking shop, may decide to send a multinational peacekeeping

force to the troubled enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In addition, Ukraine will formally renounce nuclear weapons at the conference, bringing a long-running dispute to an end.

Apart from those gains, it is the continuing war in Bosnia, which has caused a major rift between the United States, its European allies and Russia, which is likely to dominate a meeting aimed at preventing more Yugoslav-style conflicts.

Major powers in the five-nation "contact group" trying to broker peace may meet here after a visit to Serbia Sunday. They disagree on whether to offer the Serbs concessions.

Bosnia and Croatia, who hope for a meeting with the contact group here, are angry at the United Nations and NATO for failing to defend the Bihac enclave from Serb assaults.

Russia, already uneasy over previous NATO air strikes in Bosnia and the alliance's plans to take in some of Moscow's former satellites, has vetoed a U.N. Plan to make sure fuel does not get through to the Bosnian Serbs.

Moscow is also struggling with the rebellious region of Chechnya and with other conflicts on its southern rim. Knowing it has little chance of joining NATO and fearing isolation, Russia has

proposed beefing up the CSCE and turning into dominant European security organisation — thus giving Moscow a major say in all decisions.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said earlier this week that the CSCE, which has no military structure, needed a U.N. Security Council-style decision-making body.

But Western allies, although anxious to reassure Russia as they prepare to take Eastern European nations into NATO, have blocked those proposals and the summit is likely to approve only a modest strengthening of the CSCE's role.

Moscow also wants the summit to give it a mandate for peacekeeping in areas such as Georgia and Tajikistan but does not want the meeting to discuss the growing crisis in Chechnya, which it considers an internal affair.

But other countries are insisting that Russia accept international monitoring and checks on peacekeeping.

Germany's Kinkel wrote in a newspaper article this week that the Budapest summit was important to establish that Russia would not be excluded from European security, but added:

"It is not in the West's interest to leave Russia to itself when it comes to con-

flicts in the former Soviet Union."

Russia could block the proposal to send a 3,000-strong multinational peacekeeping force to Nagorno-Karabakh, because it is wary of other countries' involvement and CSCE monitoring.

If the force is approved, it would mark the first CSCE military operation and boost its flagging credibility.

Born out of a 1975 Helsinki conference, the CSCE works only if all members agree. Largely a forum for discussion on human rights, the protection of minorities and borders, it has also sent small missions to help relieve tension in some regions.

CSCE officials complain that its conflict prevention role is not appreciated and that its value lies in linking every European state with the United States and Canada — unlike the more exclusive Western clubs of NATO and the European Union.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have reached a partial accord on the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, which they have bitterly fought over for six years, the Swedish presidency of the Minsk group mediating the conflict said here Saturday.

Bosnia peace efforts strained by Russian veto at U.N.

SARAJEVO (R) — International peace efforts to end the Bosnian war were under renewed strain Saturday after Russia vetoed a draft U.N. resolution aimed at stopping fuel getting to rebel Serbs.

The veto, rarely used since the end of the cold war, came in a vote later Friday on a draft Security Council resolution that would have stopped fuel from Serbia crossing Serb-held areas of Croatia and Bosnia without the permission of their governments.

It followed apparent disagreement between the U.N. and NATO over the use of air strikes against Bosnian Serbs holding 70 per cent of the country.

Tensions between the U.N., NATO and Western governments involved in seeking a solution to the 32-month Bosnian civil war have come as the Serbs appear on the verge of taking Muslim-held Bihac despite its status as a U.N. "safe haven."

Diplomats at U.N. Headquarters in New York said Russia, by taking a stand on a relatively minor matter, appeared to be trying to demonstrate its independence and traditional friendship for the Serbs without jeopardising relations with other members of a five-nation "contact group" trying to end the war.

However, New Zealand's ambassador to the U.N., Colin Keating, called Russia's position a strange one and predicted: "The consequences of this evening's events will be felt for some time to come and we are sure that no good will come of it."

On the diplomatic front, foreign ministers of the contact group ended a meeting in Brussels by reaffirming the need for a negotiated settlement, but hinted at the possibility of a Bosnian Serb confederation with Serbia as a concession to the Serbs.

A communique after the meeting made no mention of



Self-styled Bosnian-Serb President Radovan Karadzic (left) meets with United Nations UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia General Sir Michael Rose (3rd right) in the Bosnian Serb stronghold at Pale (AFP photo)

a confederation, but diplomats later drew attention to a section which could be interpreted as allowing for a confederation.

The final paragraph spoke of allowing "equitable and balanced arrangements for the Bosnian-Croat and Bosnian Serb entities."

This was seen by some circles as paving the way for the Bosnian Serbs to link up with Serbia in the same way as a Muslim and Croat federation in Bosnia is linked in a confederation with Croatia.

Further strains within the international peace effort emerged Friday as the U.N. said it had asked NATO to stop patrolling Bosnian airspace to reduce the risk of Serb retaliation against lightly-armed peacekeepers.

United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher insisted, however, that NATO would not be deterred from its mission to enforce U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia aimed mainly at keeping Serb jets grounded.

NATO has told the U.N. it cannot continue to provide close air support unless it is able to carry out a strategic bombing campaign to neutralise Serb ground-to-air missiles, but this has been out by U.N. officials as too risky.

U.N. officials in Sarajevo said on Saturday that the Bosnian Serbs' anti-aircraft missiles were ageing and outclassed by NATO technology, but still posed a deadly threat to alliance planes.

"Any weapon is a threat when concentrated, as seems to be the case over the former Yugoslavia," a U.N. official said.

"Make no mistake, NATO could deal with the missile threat militarily. It's the politicians who can't handle the consequences, the likely escalation on the ground."

Bosnia's Muslim-led government dismissed Saturday any suggestion that Serbs could form a confederation with Serbia as part of a new peace drive, calling it "unacceptable" and "nonsense."

The remarks by Bosnia's ambassador to the 53-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which holds a summit in Budapest next week expected to be dominated by the crisis in former Yugoslavia, underline how difficult it will be for the major powers trying to broker a peace deal.

Ambassador Mahir Hadziametovic told Reuters Bosnia and Croatia would seek clarification at the summit from the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Britain — the five members of the contact group.

"We don't know anything about such a proposal. There is no official information," Mr. Hadziametovic told Reuters. "For us it is completely unacceptable, of course."

Meanwhile, separatist Serb forces from Croatia's Krajina region have agreed to pull out from the besieged U.N.-declared safe area of Bihac in northwestern Bosnia, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said here Saturday.

He said he had been informed that "the Krajina Serb authorities had agreed yesterday (Friday) to withdraw their military personnel from the Bihac Pocket."

The Krajina Serbs have been backing Bosnian Serbs in their assault on Bihac. Dr. Ghali said that Thorvald Stoltenberg, the U.N. co-chairman of the international conference on Yugoslavia, had informed him of the decision.

Mr. Stoltenberg was present at the signing in Zagreb Friday of an agreement to renew economic links between main part of Croatia and the one third of the country ruled by the Serbs separatists.

In Hamburg, Germany, the German news magazine Der Spiegel said Saturday NATO would be ready to send its crack Rapid Reaction Corps to Bosnia if the United Nations suddenly withdrew peacekeeping troops.



A Muslim rebel soldier loyal to Filaret Abdic, surveys the surroundings in the town of Velika Kladusa over his submachine gun. Here Bosnian Serbs in cooperation with the rebel Muslim army claim to have taken over 80 per cent of the western Bosnian enclave (AFP photo)

More killings in Karachi mar march for peace

KARACHI (AFP) — Snipers killed four people Saturday just before the start of a major march through this city — led by film stars, intellectuals and sports celebrities — calling for an end to sectarian violence.

The deaths took to 16 the number of people killed in the three days leading up to the event, officials said.

Three guards died Friday when unidentified gunmen opened fire on the residence of Akbar Lasi, labour minister in the Pakistan People's Party government. The minister was not at home and none of his family was injured, officials said.

Nine others died in sniper attacks at different places Thursday and Friday, while four were shot dead Saturday.

The rally itself, attended by estimated 5,000 people, passed off peacefully. More than 570 people have been killed in Karachi this year.

The rally started from the mausoleum of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah, where a sea of people dressed in white to signify peace formed a human chain around the tomb.

National celebrities including cricket hero Imran Khan and popular film and television stars, perched on decorated floats, made emotional appeals during the five-hour rally calling for peace to be restored to the country's industrial and commercial capital.

The peace march coincided with a separate conference here called by national opposition leader Nawaz Sharif with the aim of voicing concern at the anarchy in Karachi.

In a speech at the conference, Mr. Sharif blasted the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for its "failure" to resolve Karachi's problems.

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S. Korea announces plan to revamp government

SEOUL (R) — South Korea announced Saturday a major plan to streamline government by merging key ministries, creating two new administrative bodies and cutting senior posts.

The jobs of two ministers would disappear and a large-scale cabinet reshuffle would soon be carried out as a follow-up to the reorganisation, a presidential aide said but did not elaborate.

Under the changes, the powerful Economic Planning Board (EPB) and the Finance Ministry would be merged into the tentatively named Finance and Economic Planning Board, presidential spokesman Choo Don-Shik told reporters.

In addition, the construction and transport ministries would be merged into one ministry.

The government, in a revolutionary move, has decided to revamp its organisation, in order to cope with an era changing rapidly and to meet a call for the internationalisation of the country," Mr. Choo said.

"The reorganisation also aims to beef up the effectiveness in the government's activities as a smaller but stronger administrative body," he said.

He said President Kim Young-Sam earlier Saturday presided over a meeting of cabinet ministers and senior ruling Democratic Liberal Party members to decide on the revamp.

The government Administration Ministry said in a statement the new Finance and Economic Planning Board would ease its regulations on the banking, insurance and foreign exchange sectors.

The ministry said the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry would be reorganised as the Trade and Industry Ministry, while the Communications Ministry would become the Information and Communications Ministry.

The revamping also meant an upgrading for the Environment Agency to the Environment Ministry, and for the Fair Trade Commission which is now under control of the EPB, according to the ministry. The commission would be under the control of the prime minister's office.

Under the plan, changes would be made in the ministries of the Interior, Agriculture and Fisheries, Education and several others, the government administration ministry said.

The Defence Ministry was excluded from the reorganisation.

The streamlining plan will cut the number of government ministries or agencies to 37 from 39 and the posts of two ministers, three vice-ministers, five assistant-ministers and about 20 other senior-level government officials will disappear.

The government plan must be approved by cabinet ministers and then submitted to the National Assembly for deliberation.

State radio said President Kim told the Saturday meeting the scheme should be approved during the present general parliamentary session.

Some 15,000 opposition supporters staged an anti-government rally Saturday, denouncing President Kim



South Korean ruling party legislators rough up an opposition protestor on the floor of the National Assembly after deputy speaker Choon-Ku Lee railroaded the country's 1995 budget bill through parliament from a small press box, foisting opposition members who had barricaded the house speaker in his office (AFP photo)

for condoning the non-indictment of his two predecessors involved in a 1979 coup.

"Punish the culprits of the 1979 rebellion," the demonstrators shouted, demanding that Mr. Kim indict former generals-turned-president Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh

Tae-Woo for leading the 1979 coup that brought Mr. Chun to power.

But the rally in the western city of Puchon lacked enthusiasm because of freezing temperatures and Mr. Kim's surprise announcement of a sweeping change in the structure of his administration, witnesses said.

New threats from Chechnya after 3 set free

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechnya Vice President Selimkhan Yandarbiyev said Saturday that three Russian prisoners were being released but warned that the release of others depended on Moscow's attitude towards the breakaway Caucasus republic.

"The release of the prisoners depends on Russia's attitude," Mr. Yandarbiyev told an AFP reporter. "They came here to kill Chechens and if Russia starts killing Chechens again they must answer for that."

Mr. Yandarbiyev's statement came after the Moscow news agency Interfax reported that two out of 21 Russian soldiers, taken prisoner last month after joining an attack by opposition forces on Grozny, had been set free.

According to Interfax they left the Chechnya capital for Moscow with a four-member Russian parliamentary delegation which arrived Thursday to negotiate the soldiers' release and calm the escalating Chechen conflict.

In another development, Chechnya Foreign Minister Yusuf Shamsedin told a news conference here that "there will be no peace with Russia until it leaves all of the northern Caucasus."

Referring to his republic's 1991 declaration of independence which triggered the conflict with Moscow, Mr. Shamsedin added: "We want to



Volunteers express support to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and vow to defend their land from a possible intervention by Russian army troops during a rally in Grozny (AFP photo)

restore the Republic of Northern Caucasus which existed until 1924 and was recognised by several governments. Without that, the war will not stop."

Referring to the captives, Mr. Shamsedin said: "We are prepared to release them, but they asked not to be set free for their own safety."

Mr. Yandarbiyev said that the release of the three was "a gesture of goodwill."

The Russian delegation said Friday that they were convinced that the prisoners were all members of the Russian Armed Forces.

Although Moscow has openly provided financial and logistical support to the Chechen rebels, it has always denied the direct participation of its troops in the conflict.

Mr. Yandarbiyev told AFP the delegation's attitude had been "positive." However, he said it would have been better if Russian President Boris Yeltsin himself had recognised Moscow's direct intervention.

The vice president reiterated that Grozny was dis-

posed to negotiate with Russia "but as an independent state."

"Chechnya is independent," he added. "Russia has in the right to meddle in Chechen internal affairs and the Russian army does not have the right to cross the border."

The Russian mediation delegation has already appealed to Mr. Yeltsin to back off from his confrontational approach to the conflict in the tiny Muslim republic of 1.2 million inhabitants.

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Right step for Jerusalem

FAISAL HUSSEINI's assertion to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, yesterday that the Palestinians would want Jordan to continue to play its role as guardian and trustee of the holy places in occupied Jerusalem is the most sensible stand taken by a Palestinian leader on this most sensitive issue in months. Such position, as expressed by an acknowledged authority on Jerusalem, not only puts the dispute between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) behind us but also opens the way for reconciliation and full coordination between the two parties.

His Majesty King Hussein has often said that Jordan is ready to extend all possible help to the Palestinian people to regain their rights. And the Regent yesterday reiterated that offer to Mr. Hussein. Jordan is and should be able to provide assistance and support to the Palestinians on many fronts. Decades of close relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples can only reinforce goodwill by both sides. Jordan's past experience in running the West Bank prior to the 1967 war is an important asset to the PNA in its quest to establish the infrastructure for modern government in the autonomous areas. The Kingdom's peace treaty with Israel, on the other hand, enables the Palestinians to use Jordan's good offices to help them negotiate a better deal with the Israelis.

The Palestinian leadership has always recognised that Jordan is its natural depth and that Jordanian-Palestinian economic and social bonds are too strong to ignore or break. Any rift between the two leaderships will only add to hardships on both sides, but especially to the PNA. Since Jordan recognises that real peace will only come to this troubled region after the core issue of Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people are addressed, the Palestinian leadership should recognise that Jordanians are at the end of the day their partners not foes. Mr. Hussein's visit, as we understand it, could lead, if successful, to a summit meeting between the King and PNA leader Yasser Arafat. We believe that renewal of high-level contacts and real coordination, besides being desired by both peoples, is extremely necessary.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan's latest tour of European capitals has focused attention on Europe's role in safeguarding Middle East peace and on the need for the Europeans to play a major role in the development of the region, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The paper said that in his tour the Crown Prince highlighted the Jordanian role in leading the Arab-European partnership towards building a security and cooperation belt around the Mediterranean Sea. The time has come for the European countries to play the expected role and to enhance the peace process between the Arabs and Israel, called the daily. Needless to say that Europe's security and economic ties are closely connected with those of the Arab countries and it is in Europe's interests to back a just and lasting peace between the Arabs and the Israelis, added the paper. It said that the Arabs welcome Europe's participation and partnership in security, economy and development at all levels as they hold on to the historic relations with the Europeans. In his meetings in Europe, said the paper, the Prince also called for European participation in the 1995 economic conference in Amman so as to pave the way for a European-Arab summit in the second half of the coming year, recalled the paper. It said European moves in this direction would be most welcome by Jordan and the whole region.

IT IS premature to predict the future relations between the Palestine National Authority and Hamas in the self-rule areas despite the initial agreement concluded by the two parties Friday, said Mohammad Kharroub, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. There is no doubt that the agreement is bound to bring about a truce between the two foes in the wake of the massacre that occurred on Nov. 18 in Gaza, but observers still wonder how long the two sides would refrain from provoking each other in the streets, said the writer. He said that one has to admit that a statement, on the part of Hamas, that it no more insist on President Arafat's admitting his responsibility for the massacre has helped break the ice between the two sides. In return Arafat's recognition of Hamas as an equal partner in ruling the self-rule area and setting up a joint committee to deal with outstanding issues were welcome as part of a long process of reconciliation between the two sides. There is no doubt, said the writer, that the two sides have started to realise that their own interests are being damaged through continued infighting and that only through joint action and agreement on specific plans to deal with the common foe were the only means of safeguarding the Palestinian interests.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

The 1995 budget with alternative scenarios

IN THEORY, a central government budget is made based on two major decisions. The first regards the government's expenditure for a coming year and the second the way to finance that expenditure.

However, in Jordan the situation is reversed. The government estimates first how much money it will collect and then decides on how to spend that amount.

Upon drafting the budget of 1995, the minister of finance found himself in a dilemma: If he presents a conservative budget, in accordance with the established fiscal policy and the guidelines of the economic adjustment programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he will be criticised for ignoring the new circumstances of peace and admitting that no peace dividend exists and there is nothing in the budget for the ordinary man in the street. If, on the other hand, he presents an extremely large and ambitious budget on the assumption that it will be financed from expected foreign grants, he will be accused of being too aggressive, increasing deficit, building on sand and planning to spend money that may not exist.

Therefore, the Ministry of Finance came up with a new formula that violates the basic principles of governmental budgeting. The budget tried to answer to the two expected criticisms by providing a budget with two scenarios. First, there is the ordinary budget, called the first chapter, which the ministry had in mind before peace. The size of this budget is JD 1,674 million, reflecting a growth rate of 10 per cent over the previous year. This is normal assuming a real economic growth of 5 per cent and an inflation rate of another 5 per cent. Second, there is the extraordinary budget, called the second chapter, which is applicable only if foreign grants exceed the \$235 million included in the first chapter. The size of this conditional budget is JD 390 million. It covers economic and infrastructural projects of high priority which should be implemented, yet are not included in the ordinary budget due to lack of funds.

The extraordinary budget may be useful in that it does not close the door to extra funds that may come during 1995 due to peace, without increasing deficit. It is also a message to the donors that Jordan needs the money and has a plan to utilise any extra grants.

The strong point in this draft budget is that the domestic revenue will reach a record JD 1,400 million which will cover 100 per cent of current expenditure and 38 per cent of capital expenditure. Thirty seven per cent of the capital expenditure will be financed by foreign grants. The remaining 25 per cent will depend on fresh loans. This means that the government will have to borrow around JD 110 million more than its cost of debt servicing in order to finance all the projects listed in the first chapter. However, we do not expect this extra borrowing to be needed because, due to obstacles, delay and postponements, no more than 75 per cent of the capital expenditure was actually spent in any of the recent years. Most likely fresh borrowing and repayment of loans will balance each other.

Domestic revenue is almost 40 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), thus no one can say that the Jordanian people does not deserve help until they start to help themselves. The tax burden is obviously on the high side. Only foreign grants can help the government do something meaningful economically and let the people feel a difference.

The weak point in the budget is the absence of net repayment of debt and the presence of the conditional budget in chapter two, which may or may not come to play, depending on circumstances not under the control of the government. It is up to the donors to make the budget of 1995 different, for the first year of peace, or to remain under the umbrella of the economic adjustment programme supervised by the IMF, when the line of poverty covers one in five families and unemployment reaches one in seven workers.

Collective security — a stringent necessity that could become reality

By Maher Y. Massis

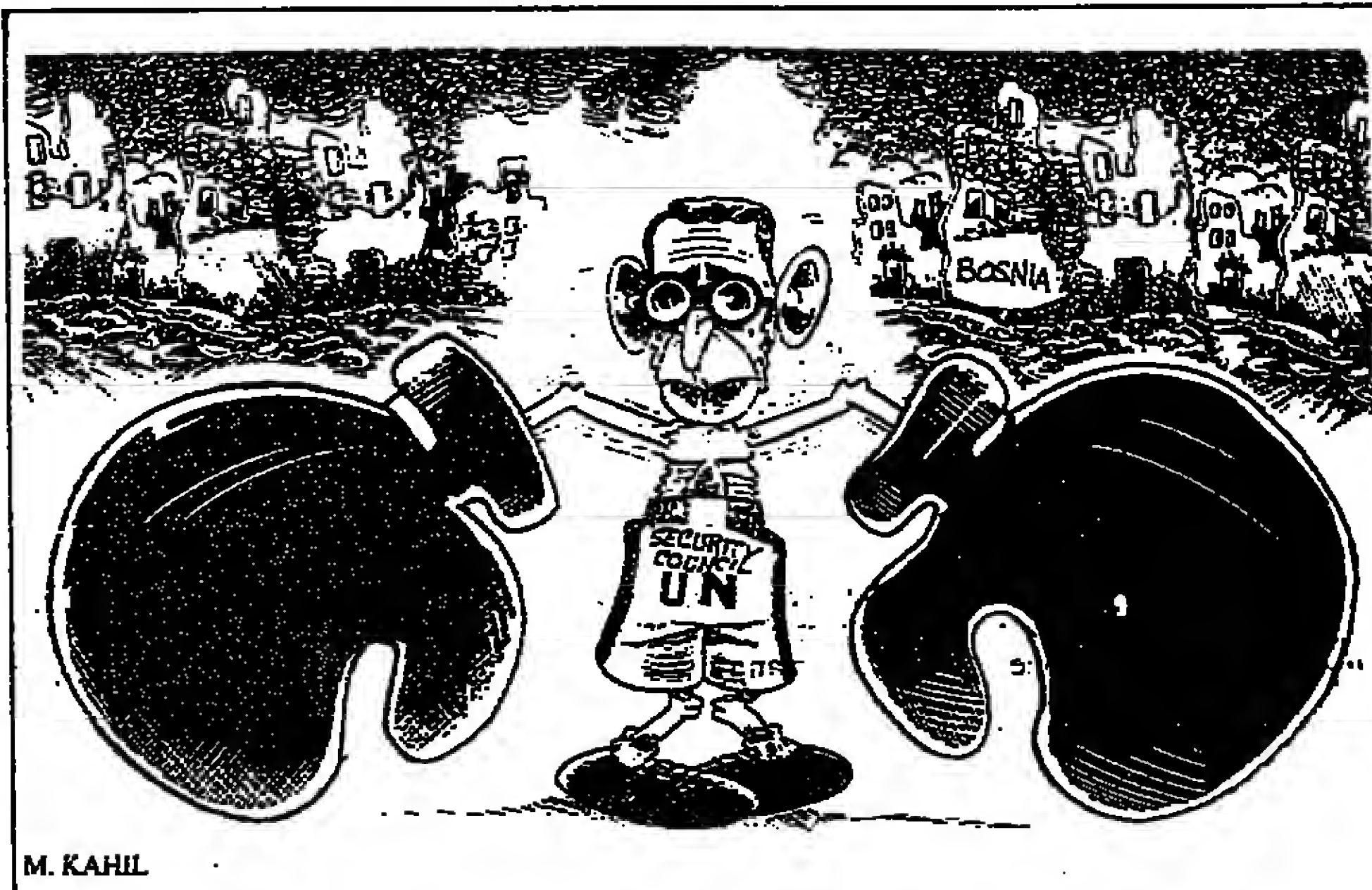
FROM THE very beginning of recorded human history, conflict amongst peoples and nations has dominated international politics. In the 20th century, the legacy of human conflict has become profoundly more dangerous as mechanised armies and increased interdependence of nations intensified the degree of destruction from war and its spread amongst many nations. What can be done to prevent wars and how can we stop them once they start? These two simple but fundamental questions were responded to almost fifty years ago by the establishment of the United Nations.

The primary goal of the United Nations was to "preserve world peace and security" on the basis of collective security. This goal was destined to fail for the three related reasons. First, world politics has been and continues to be dominated by power politics. Second, the unanimity rule (veto power) prevented effective decision-making at the Security Council. And third, the lack of an autonomous U.N. standing army undermined its enforcement capability. An explanation have might be in order.

The U.N. Security Council was entrusted with the exclusive responsibility to preserve world peace on the basis of collective security. The idea of collective security refers to the assumption that all member nations would respond forcefully against any disruption of peace irrespective of their interests. Such a perceived threat is expected to deter a nation from becoming aggressive. Theoretically, the idea of collective security is very sensible, but in reality the prerequisite of close and voluntary cooperation amongst the member states is unrealistic.

During the 1940s, the founders of the U.N. Charter, especially President Roosevelt, assumed that the dominance of the Security Council by the five great powers (U.S., U.K., China, France, Soviet Union) would provide the power behind its peace-making functions. But Roosevelt did not foresee that cooperation amongst the five great powers would become severely undermined by a bipolar world structure dominated by cold war politics. Moreover, the right of veto power vested in each of the permanent members of the Security Council often became an instrument of obstruction to effective decision-making by the cold war rivals. In essence, the U.N. became hostage to the changing condition of international politics.

With the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, new interest in the U.N. raised hopes that it would finally become a prominent actor in world affairs. The Gulf war has often been cited as a recent example of the success of the U.N. in collective



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security. However, a close look at the political dynamics of the Gulf war indicates that the success of "collective action" greatly depends on the willingness of powerful nations to intervene. If the U.S. had not been willing to commit itself politically and militarily, then certainly the U.N. Security Council resolutions would not have been implemented or even passed.

Since the primary goal of each nation's foreign policy is the pursuit of "self-interest," the recent case of Somalia better exemplifies the unwillingness of powerful nations to experience the high costs (both in material and human lives) associated with implementing U.N. resolutions. Thus, the greater the perceived self-interest, the greater the willingness of powerful nations to accept the high costs of involvement.

For instance, the Gulf crisis was considered to be vital to U.S. interests and therefore American public opinion was willing to accept a major intervention and the relative costs that accompanies it. However, in the case of Somalia, the death of over twenty marines was a non-acceptable cost since U.S. intervention was considered to be purely humanitarian. The above examples lead one to conclude that the United Nations continues to be ineffective in areas that do not involve any powerful nation's self-interest. This is further exacerbated by the fact that U.N. lacks any permanent U.N. standing force.

If the U.N. did have an army, as it was originally supposed to, then it would not have become so dependent on the willingness of nations to intervene. Moreover, the U.N. secretary general would not become so busy summoning soldiers from here and there. This time-consuming and prompt method of forming a U.N. force is clearly unacceptable.

I propose the establishment of a U.N. marine force modelled on the U.S. marine force which is capable of dealing with a variety of military situations in various environmental conditions.

The purpose of the force would be to quickly intervene and stabilise a situation while diplomatic pressure and other means support its action. What are the elements of the proposed marine force?

First, it should be a well-trained and armed rapid deployment force of at least 20,000 marines. Second, the composition of the force should not exceed more than five per cent from any nationality. Diversifying the national composition of this force would legitimise its international character and prevent any nation from influencing the course of its action on the basis of contribution to the force.

Third, recruitment for the marine force should come from individuals who voluntarily join the force and who are not members of an active or reserve military of any nation. The objective here is to prevent dual-loyalties and reinforce a socialisation process under which loyalty to the U.N. would supersede any national loyalties. Fourth, considering Jordan's geographical proximity to Africa, the Middle East and Europe, the armed force could be trained and based in Jordan. This would also require the establishment of a United Nations military college in Jordan. In the future, other U.N. military deployments can be made in regions with a high tendency for conflict.

Finally, no such proposal can be taken seriously without first considering the problem of funding. Historically nations influence each other and international organisations by controlling their financial resources. They influence decision-making by withdrawing, decreasing or even increasing funding. To prevent this from happening with the proposed force, funding must come from a non-governmental independent source. In other words, no nation should contribute one penny to this force. How can this be done?

In 1973, the third law of the Sea Conference was convened for the purpose of creating international rules on numerous issues dealing with the sea. After six years

of deliberations, many controversial issues were resolved. But one sticking point that has yet to be fully resolved is the question of who controls the natural resources (oil, minerals, etc.) of the sea under international waters.

Third World countries sought to establish an international mining company, the Sea-bed Authority, which was to distribute its profits to underdeveloped countries. Such an international mining company was expected to decrease the gap between rich and poor nations. However, the Sea-bed Authority never materialised mainly because of the reluctance of advanced nations to transfer needed technology and capital funds.

Considering the new international atmosphere, the time seems ripe for the creation of the Sea-bed Authority under the auspices of the U.N. However, instead of distributing the proceeds to underdeveloped nations, the funds should be transferred directly to a special U.N. security fund for the exclusive purpose of funding all peace-making functions. The ultimate result would relieve U.N.'s dependency on donations from individual countries by creating, for the first time in U.N. history, a major income-generating enterprise.

As we enter the twenty-first century, ethnic, religious and territorial conflicts are expected to continue if not proliferate. Most nations would not involve themselves in areas where their interests are not involved. It is therefore essential for the world community to establish the marine force for the purpose of filling a security vacuum created by the unwillingness of powerful nations to incur the costs of intervention. Only then can we hope that the idea of collective security would become a concrete reality.

The writer, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Houston, U.S., is head of the teacher and Social Services Department at the Abdul Hamid Sharaf School. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Billionaire prime minister failed to shine in politics

BEIRUT (AFP) — Self-made billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri of Lebanon, who on Thursday announced his "definitive" wish to step down, earned his wings in business but failed to shine in politics.

His appointment in October 1992 and his plans for an ambitious \$10-to-\$12 billion programme to rebuild war-shattered Lebanon have been a key element in renewing Western and Arab confidence and investment in Lebanon.

Born to a family of farmers in the southern port of Sidon 50 years ago, Mr. Hariri left his ancestral home at the age of 18 for Saudi Arabia determined to improve his life.

He returned 20 years later with a fortune estimated \$4 billion and is now listed among the world's 100 wealthiest men, owning several banks in Europe and the Middle East as well as property as far west as Texas.

Mr. Hariri has pledged personal funds for major post-war reconstruction projects across Lebanon and was the driving force behind plans to rebuild and develop the war-wrecked city centre of Beirut.

His appointment was blessed by Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon and is the main broker, and welcomed by the United States, Saudi Arabia and other regional and international powers.

The powerful Lebanese trade union CGTL and the chamber of commerce were also satisfied with Mr. Hariri's assumption of the premiership.

Newspapers described him as "Santa Claus" and "Mr. Miracle," while many of his compatriots hoped that his luck would rub off on them.

Two years later pro-Syrian cabinet ministers, deputies, politicians, intellectuals and the same union leaders who welcomed his ascension charge that he has failed to carry out his mission.

His detractors accuse him of preferring business to politics and giving priority to reconstruction projects before social issues.

President Elias Hrawi and Speaker Nabih Berri spearheaded the opposition, with the former accusing him of adopting a "hegemonistic" style and the latter a lack of cooperation.

"He has been unable to administer politics with the same golden touch he had in his business empire," one critic said.

Mr. Hariri's announcement of his "definitive" wish to step down came one week after hundreds of thousands of workers observed a nation-wide strike demanding higher wages and social benefits.

The strike was called by the CGTL, which had forced the government of Omar Karami to step down in 1991 over similar calls.

Last May Mr. Hariri sulked at home for several days after his attempts to broaden the Christian membership in his cabinet were thwarted, triggering a political crisis at home.

Nine months earlier Mr. Hariri had threatened to quit, citing resistance among the cabinet to his post-war reconstruction policies.

Intervention by Syria contained both crises and observers here believe the final verdict on Mr. Hariri's wish to resign will be given in Damascus.

A schoolteacher turned accountant and then entrepreneur, Mr. Hariri struck gold in 1977 when the Saudi government was desperately looking for a contractor who could quickly build a conference centre for an Islamic summit.

He did the job in six months, winning the eternal gratitude and friendship of Crown Prince Fahd, Saudi Arabia's reigning monarch. In a rare gesture, Saudi Arabia, which does not recognise dual nationalities, gave him Saudi citizenship in 1978.

Mr. Hariri is married and has four children.

Clinton starts new relations with Republicans

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has passed his first test in dealing with the newly empowered Republican leaders of Congress, winning passage of the GATT trade pact, but the outcome offers few signs of future harmony.

"Let's make the GATT vote, the first vote of a new era of cooperation," Mr. Clinton declared as Republican and Democratic leaders joined him for an outdoor ceremony at the White House on Thursday night, shortly after the vote.

"I urge everyone here to continue to work to keep our country optimistic and hopeful and outward-looking, brave as we march into the future," said Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Clinton on Friday was to meet privately at the White House with Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich, who becomes speaker of House of Representatives next month.

Although both men helped when it came to the GATT accord, they remain on a collision course with Mr. Clinton when it comes to a host of other issues — from domestic policies to foreign affairs.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the world trade pact by a vote of 76 to 24, providing final congressional approval to legislation that had generated stiff opposition. The House of Representatives approved the pact on Tuesday by a similar wide margin, 288 to 146.

The overwhelming approval of the accord — which eliminates trade barriers around the world — came after intense lobbying by Mr. Clinton, who warned that failure to approve the accord negotiated under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would cripple the world economy and harm U.S. leadership abroad.

Although the Senate vote officially was the final act of the democratically-controlled 103rd Congress, the GATT legislation gave Republicans their first chance to flex muscles that have languished for

40 years. Mr. Dole joined Mr. Clinton for the White House ceremony — his presence serving as a public reminder that final approval probably would not have come without the Kansas lawmaker's consent.

Mr. Dole, who harbours presidential aspirations of his own, raised questions about the accord and only after the White House made private agreements to meet his concerns did many Senate Republicans back the pact.

"Mr. President, I think it goes without saying that this is bipartisanship," Mr. Dole said of the congressional action. "...It was all about trade, all about the future, all about America, and all about our place in the world."

In the next Congress, politics will play a far greater role — as Republicans try to prove that voters were right in giving them control of both houses of Congress for the first time in four decades.

For Mr. Clinton, the political benefits of approving GATT rest more in what did not happen than in what did. A defeat, following the sweeping Republican wins in last month's elections, would have doomed his credibility.

The political benefits of the vote are limited for Mr. Clinton. The GATT accord, while generating immense interest around the world, is far more important to America's leaders than it is to its everyday citizens.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll taken before the Senate vote found that 63 per cent of Americans did not know enough about the agreement to have an opinion on it. Only 23 per cent favoured the pact, while 14 per cent opposed it.

The victory that White House officials were celebrating, therefore, carries limited benefits for Mr. Clinton — who was elected by less than a majority of the votes cast in a three-way race.

He now faces the challenge of trying to show he can be an effective president even though Republicans control Congress. Mr. Clinton won the battle over GATT, but the political wars are far from over.

On Bosnia, Washington should stop deferring to London and Paris

By Adrian Hastings, Norman Stone, Mark Almond, Noel Malcolm, Branka Magas

LEEDS, England — To lift or not to lift the arms embargo is the central decisive question facing Western policy-makers on Bosnia. The American decision to stop enforcing the embargo and the Serbs' advance on Bihać, which depended on their massive superiority in heavy weaponry, have brought it back into the headlines. But in reality this issue has been decisive all along.

The arms embargo has underpinned the entire structure of western policies that have so signally failed to halt the war: the hamstrung United Nations operation, the fiction of "safe areas," the so-called peace process — a process for offering the Serbs more and more of what they demand.

Defenders of the arms embargo, such as Britain's defence secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, like to say that the difference between British and American policy arises because the British, having troops on the ground in Bosnia, have a better knowledge of the facts.

The truth is that those divergent attitudes to the embargo are based not so much on differences in knowledge as on different preferences about the future of Bosnia itself. Those who defend the embargo wish Bosnia to be divided; those who call for the lifting of the embargo wish Bosnia to survive within its international and internationally recognised borders as a viable, sovereign state.

Why have the British and French governments pushed so hard for a policy that will guarantee the destruction and permanent division of Bosnia? Underlying this policy have been three things.

The first was their belief that one large state in the area was better than a number of small ones. Once it was clear that Yugoslavia could not be preserved, their support switched to the establishment of a greater Serbia.

The second was a traditional sympathy with Serbia as an ally from two world wars. British diplomats reacted positively to Serbia and Belgrade, with which they were well acquainted, and negatively to Croatia, smeared as somehow a continuation of the fascist Ustaša state. Bosnia, meanwhile, remained unknown.

The third was the notion, already being disseminated in June 1992 that the Serbs had

successfully seized so much of Bosnia in the first weeks of the war that a fait accompli had been created which the international community would never be able to reverse. The only way to achieve peace, therefore, was to accept the substance of the Serbs' demands.

The fatal mistake here was to underestimate the tenacity and determination of Bosnians to support their legitimate government and defend the pluralist unity of their country. That refusal to accept defeat has, from an early stage in the war, been the real obstacle to the fulfilment of the British-French policy in Bosnia.

And while Lord Owen, Douglas Hurd and Alain Juppé have exerted more and more diplomatic pressure on the Bosnian government to accept the "realities on the ground," it has become more and more important for them to maintain the embargo, which keeps those realities artificially fixed where they are.

Maintaining this policy has required a great effort on the part of the British and French governments. They have had to work hard to oppose all the legal, moral and practical arguments which cry out in favour of lifting the embargo.

The legal arguments are clear. This embargo was not imposed on Bosnia; it was applied in September 1991 to the whole of Yugoslavia, which still functioned theoretically as a single state. In April 1992, Bosnia was recognised as an independent country, and in May it was admitted to the United Nations as a new member state, distinct and separate from Yugoslavia. The only basis for continuing to apply the embargo as if the old Yugoslavia still existed was a report submitted to the Security Council by the U.N. secretary-general on Jan. 4, 1992, which said that in the opinion of Cyrus Vance this would be the best thing to do.

Such a flimsy legal basis can hardly prevail against the fundamental right of self-defence of a sovereign state — a right which the U.N. embargo clearly violates. That right is set out in Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, but it is quite false to suppose that it is a privilege handed out to member states by the United Nations, which it can therefore withdraw when it so wishes. Self-defence is a fundamental right in international law, pre-dating the United Nations.

The moral argument is based on the view that the Bosnian state embodied

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values — of democracy, pluralism and legitimacy — which are worth defending. Since western governments will not use their own troops to preserve the Bosnian state, they must allow the Bosnian army to act unhindered in defence of that state and the values it stands for.

This war is not a clash between two mirror images of ethnic hostility. It is a conflict between versions of society: one based on the continuation of a multiethnic and multi-religious life through democratic institutions, and the other based on racial-religious purity, established by murder, mass expulsions and the destruction of religious and cultural monuments.

Spokesmen for the British-French policy always fail to mention that the government of Bosnia has retained Croatian and Serbian members throughout the war. It is quite false to talk about Radovan Karadzic as if he represented "the Serbs" en bloc. Of the 1,300,000 Serbs who lived in Bosnia before the war, only 600,000 now live in the territory which Mr.

Karadzic controls — even though his forces took over not only all the Serb-majority areas, but many other areas besides.

Roughly 200,000 Serbs still live in the territory of the Bosnian government. In Tuzla, Serbs have even formed a special brigade of Serbs within the Bosnian army. And of the hundreds of thousands of Serbs who have sought refuge abroad, a significant proportion are appalled by what has been done in their name.

In this context, it is particularly wrongheaded to argue — as four writers did in a contribution from London — that establishing Bosnia as an independent state was wrong because the state was bound to be "seen as artificial by so many of its inhabitants."

How many is so many? The majority of Bosnians voted for independence in the referendum, and the reason why many Serbian areas did not vote was that Mr. Karadzic's henchmen had stopped the ballot boxes from entering those areas.

Fewer than 100,000 men, mainly soldiers under orders,

took part in the military operations, directed by a neighbouring state, which carved out the bulk of Mr. Karadzic's territory in April and May 1992. Many of them were Serbs from outside Bosnia.

The practical arguments for lifting the embargo are also serious and compelling. Even Lord Owen has begun recently to recognise that no "peace plan" will be accepted by the Serbs until at least a balance of power has been created on the ground. If the Serbian attack on Croatia in 1991 ended after six or seven months, it was largely because a balance of power was developing (thanks to improved supplies of weaponry to the Croats) in which further aggression had become too costly. Mr. Karadzic still has no such incentive to come to the negotiating table.

Defenders of the embargo usually make two claims: first, that lifting it would lead to a terrible escalation of the fighting, and second, that the Bosnian army has plenty of weapons already. The second

claim, which blatantly contradicts the first, has become the favourite line taken by British government briefings.

It is strange to hear an embargo defended above all on the grounds that it does not work. But the truth is that it does work, in the absolutely crucial area of heavy weaponry. As the Bosnian army breakout round Bihać and its subsequent collapse have shown, the Serbs may be vulnerable to infantry warfare on a wide front, and they may nowadays need more time to move their heavy weaponry around; but once they have concentrated it in any particular counter-attack, their massive superiority in fire-power virtually ensures success.

As for the argument that lifting the embargo would create a bloodbath and "only prolong the fighting," this is radically misconceived. The Bosnian government is not a mirror image of Mr. Karadzic's regime; the mass murder of civilians is not one of its military objectives. Serbian villages in reconquered areas

of Herzegovina live peacefully now under the protection of the Bosnian state.

It is true that, if the embargo were lifted, the level of fighting between the two armies would increase in the short term. But the result, after some significant defeats of the Serbian forces, would be to bring long-term peace much sooner to all the people of Bosnia.

When the Bosnian government asked in October for a delay in implementing any decision to lift the embargo, it was not repudiating the policy itself. It was merely recognising that, as a direct result of the policy pursued by western governments so far, huge practical difficulties had been created which would necessitate a period of preparation.

The worst problem is that of the so-called safe areas, enclaves in which tens of thousands of civilians are kept in effect as hostages by the Serbs.

In some cases (Zepa and Srebrenica), the local Bosnian government forces have

had their weapons confiscated by the United Nations. This presents a remarkable contrast with the "U.N. Protected Areas" in Croatia, where large armed forces were actively built up by the Serbs, under the noses of the United Nations, before being unleashed in the attack on the Bihać enclave.

The West has helped create these "safe areas"; and, having helped to prevent the Bosnian army from defending them, it has publicly accepted responsibility for their protection.

Security Council Resolution 836 authorised the U.N. Protection Force to use force "in reply to bombardments against the safe areas by any of the parties or armed incursions into them or in the event of any deliberate obstruction in or around these areas to the freedom of movement" of the U.N. force "or of protected humanitarian convoys." On each of these counts, the U.N. Protection Force has failed consistently to carry out its mandate.

When the embargo is finally lifted, it will become more necessary, not less, for the United Nations to ensure that this mandate is enforced. NATO should be enabled to give full and effective protection to those safe areas from the air. It is both essential and entirely right that any policy of "lift" should include a policy of "strike," as President Bill Clinton previously proposed.

The British-French strategy, which has dominated western policy for two and a half years, has been both unethical and completely unsuccessful. Only through an enormous exercise in deceit has it lasted as long as it has.

It is time that the U.S. government ceased to allow either its own policy or that of the United Nations to be hijacked by London and Paris, and made to serve a strategy wholly inconsistent with the ideals of democracy and pluralism on which the United States itself was built.

Adrian Hastings is professor of theology at Leeds University. Norman Stone is professor of modern history at Oxford University. Mark Almond is tutor in modern history at Oriel College, Oxford, and author of "Europe's Backyard War." Noel Malcolm is author of "Bosnia: A Short History." Branka Magas is author of "The Destruction of Yugoslavia." This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Israelis, Jordanians working together in Haiti

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The heads of the Israeli and Jordanian contingents participating in the U.S.-led multinational force (MNF) in Haiti briefed in press last week on their missions in the country.

In his remarks, Master Sergeant Shimon Abishai, the spokesman for the Israeli contingent, noted that this is the first time the Israelis and Jordanians "are in peace and we are working together."

Lieutenant-Colonel Samed Abu Ourabi, the commanding officer of the Jordanian contingent, said their special mission in Haiti — monitoring the work of the local police — "is going naturally (well) with no obstacles coming up nowadays."

Following is the transcript of the press briefing: —Mr. Paul Brown (Deputy Commander International Police Monitors):

Now, it's my pleasure to introduce the heads of the Israeli and Jordanian contingents: the commanding officer of the Jordanian contingent, Lt.-Colonel Samed Abu Ourabi, and the spokesman for the Israeli contingent, Master Sergeant Shimon Abishai. Each of these officers will make a statement and take your questions.

Col. Abu Ourabi: The Jordanian contingent is participating in this mission under the umbrella of the international police monitors in Haiti. The nature of this mission, in general, is to monitor the work of the local police and carrying out our duties through legal channels. Our specific mission here is going naturally (well) with no obstacles coming up nowadays. We carry out on-the-job training with short courses on normal police duties. We give full support to the local police

through our 24-hour patrols (and through) the training process which is being given to the local police. We also carry out some additional duties such as humanitarian help, like transporting urgent cases to the hospitals. We are also carrying out a plan for traffic control. All of these activities which we are carrying out are supposed to be in aid to the local police. In other words, the real ones carrying out all of these functions are the Haitian police. Our function here is to give them the guidance and the training that they need. This is a summary of our mission here.

Thank you. Master Sergeant Shimon Abishai: Good Morning and Shalom in Hebrew. My name is Abishai, Master Sergeant from the Israeli contingent and also the medic of the group. Thirty of us came here from Israel a month and a half ago, after a lot of questions in the Supreme Court of Israel about sending Israeli policemen to other countries. We came here to try to help the mission with all the other contingents from all the other countries. We came first to Port-au-Prince to the very big neighbourhood of Carrefour. It's a very hard and poor place. One police station there didn't work. Another one was burned. And we came to start to organise all the police work. We took the police officers from the station to the Haitian people that now they have a new police, after we heard from the people that they were hating the police officers before. And we try to make like we have with our police, community policemen. The job of police is to serve the citizens.

Hamas videos preach hate and teach guns

By Nicolas B. Tatro The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A dark-haired man in a blue sweatshirt sat in front of a table strewn with automatic weapons, pistols and ammunition clips. A banner behind him read: "Only by blood will we liberate our country."

Jamal Abdul Hamid Yousef, 23, recounts operations of his unit of the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. Mr. Yousef, who is wanted by both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), describes the ambush of an Israeli jeep in which an officer was wounded and says his unit later kidnapped a soldier who was killed after being ordered to strip.

"Our suicide operations are a message... that our people love death. Our goal is to die for the sake of God, and if we live we want to humiliate Jews and trample on their necks," he said.

Mr. Yousef's chilling confessions are part a videocassette which can be bought for \$5 or rented for 30 cents in Gaza. Similar ones are available in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

The videos, along with books and audio cassettes, are part of a well-orchestrated campaign which is funded in part by money raised in the United States.

It is designed to win over Palestinians, especially young ones, who have lost hope in PLO leader Yasser Arafat's ability to deliver change. The videotapes, usually poor quality, appear to be made locally and began appearing in the open only after the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho became autonomous in May.

They intersperse songs, speeches of militant Islamic preachers, rallies and TV footage of protests and the aftermath of suicide attacks on Israelis.

Some like the tape starring Mr. Yousef's underground group also provide instruction on how to use weapons. After recounting the group's attacks on Israelis, Mr. Yousef demonstrated how to assemble, load and fire the M-16 and AK-47 automatic rifles on the table in front of him.

The message in the videotapes is often far bloodier and direct than can be found in slogans painted on walls or even in underground leaflets.

The preachers promise a life of plenty in paradise — where there are rivers of honey and 72 brides for any hero who is martyred fighting the enemies of Islam, an attractive afterlife is a powerful recruiting message to jobless youths in refugee camps who weep no more.

On one tape Sheikh Jamil Hamami, the leader of Hamas in Jerusalem, praises three Hamas activists who were killed during a siege of their hideout by Israeli soldiers in March, saying they restored pride to Palestinians who had been victimised by Israeli occupation.

"There is a big, big difference between this group of martyrs who restored our dignity to us, restored our honour, and increased our confidence in God and our just cause, and the ones who want us to surrender and accept humiliation."

He condemns the Israel-PLO peace making that brought autonomy to the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank as a sell-out of Palestinian dreams for statehood and independence.

"History is made through blood and the bullets of Izzeddine Al Qassam, and it's not the weak and paralysed history made at the table of negotiation," Sheikh Hamami said.

Israeli officials see such videotapes as a threat and selling or possessing them can lead to arrest and jail terms of two to five years.

"Why dangerous? Because people regard the words and speeches of recognised religious leaders as authoritative religious commandments. In as much as people wish to be devout and obedient, they will strive to fulfill these demands," said Yigal Carmon, a former government adviser. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has declared war on Hamas, arresting more than 400 Hamas activists and warning that the peace process has been imperilled by attacks on Israelis. Islamic militants are blamed for most of 94 people killed since September 1993 when the Israel-PLO accord was signed.

Two of those arrested earlier this month held American passports, although they have not been identified by name. They were carrying large amounts of money and indoctrination material, including videotapes, according to Palestinian and Israeli sources.

Israeli officials are calling on the United States and other nations to crack down on the activities of radicals, who use democratic states as a base to raise funds, teach young militants to carry out jihad or "holy war," and produce training films that are banned in their home countries.

"Encouraging people to kill Jews seems to me a crime," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Belin said,

NATO mean machine shows shortcomings in Bosnia

By John Follain Reuter

NAPLES, Italy — Arms industry publicity describes the NATO military hardware unleashed in air strikes against Bosnian Serbs as all-weather, high-performance, even "intelligent," but the shortcomings are also cruelly evident.

While the focus of attention has been on the West's willingness to send warplanes into action over Bosnia, questions persist about the effectiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's expensive combat machine.

NATO sources and military analysts say the shortcomings apparent in a week of raids near the Serb-besieged town of Bihać in northwestern Bosnia have boxed the alliance into a corner.

"The arms traders have put out too much propaganda. They've exaggerated the capacities of the planes and the intelligence of the weapons," General Luigi Caligaris, Italian commentator and conservative member of the European Parliament, told Reuters.

One burning issue facing western governments is whether they can go on relying on low-risk air missions alone if these have done little to slow the Serbian advance on Bihać, a heavily populated area where opposing forces, U.N. personnel and civilians are in close proximity.

Commanders at NATO's southern Europe headquarters in the Italian port city of Naples were forced to delay for a day a strike planned for Nov. 20 against the Croatian Serbian air base of Udubina because of low visibility.

Last Wednesday, NATO had to launch a second attack on a rebel Serb missile site near the Bihać pocket after

an initial strike failed to put one launcher out of action.

In a further embarrassment, NATO jets returned to base on Friday without having fired a round or missile after a U.N. ground controller in Bihać failed to pinpoint the source of four shells that hit the town.

The series of failures by the much-vaunted day-and-night attack aircraft packed with electronics and worth millions of dollars each contrasts starkly with the textbook achievements of similar high-tech weaponry in the 1991 Gulf war.

For American top brass, the failures have especially reawakened haunting memories of poor performances during the Vietnam war against well-concealed opponents.

"High-tech was fine in the Iraqi desert. You knew where the enemy was. But in Bosnia the targets are different, and how much do you achieve by hitting one tank or one missile launcher? Often the cost of the mission is greater than the value of what you have destroyed," Italian commentator Caligaris said.

The joint NATO forces keep planes airborne over Bosnia for much of every day that passes, ready to strike within minutes, but cloudy weather and problems posed by wooded, hilly terrain repeatedly frustrate their efforts.

Serb anti-aircraft missile and artillery batteries are also highly mobile and can be concealed quickly in forests or cleverly positioned in built-up areas. In the Gulf war, Iraqi tank columns moving through the desert were sitting targets by comparison.

While NATO's military is sure that allied planes based in Italy and on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea can destroy large artillery pieces

or tanks, other weapons are harder to hit. Most mortars can be packed into the boot of a car.

In the embattled Bihać area in particular, there is a major risk of killing civilians or U.N. soldiers by mistake.

"Bihać is a town and it's very difficult for air power to do anything there — you have side-by-side in a small area Serb forces, Muslim defenders, U.N. peacekeepers and rebel groups," said one Western military source who requested anonymity.

"If you decree a military exclusion zone around Bihać, and impose an ultimatum for weapons to be pulled out, you'll have to send troops in to monitor what is happening on the ground," the source added.

Foiling the blueprints drawn up by NATO commanders, there are no big deployments of forces in a conflict which is often fought guerrilla-style by local militias that disobey their own superiors. With winter closing in, visibility will deteriorate.

Military analysts say there is a limit to what air power can achieve in any theatre of war and, defects aside, it is a political reluctance to commit massive ground troops that has failed to dent the Serb offensive.

"Only sending in troops could help to resolve the situation. But even if forces were sent in under NATO or U.N. auspices they would have to be very heavily armed and be ready to accept very strong losses," Gen. Caligaris said.

NATO estimates tens of thousands of soldiers would be needed to protect the six U.N.-designated "safe areas" in former Yugoslavia, including Bihać and the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

World bank tells Kuwait to tighten belt

KUWAIT (R) — The World Bank has advised Kuwait, which faces a growing budget deficit, to cut wages, impose charges on public services and introduce tax, a newspaper said Saturday.

The World Bank recommended a reduction in public spending such as wages and subsidies and an increase in charges (on public services), Al Watan newspaper said.

It quoted an unidentified official as saying the World Bank recommendation, based on a study it carried out in June, was passed to Kuwaiti officials.

The official said the recommendations included reducing the number of state employees and trimming their wages, which now swallow one quarter of Kuwait's revenue.

They also suggested the postponement of less important development projects, an increase in charges for public services apart from education, the removal of subsidies on many goods, and the introduction of sales and services taxes.

Kuwait should also take steps towards privatising state firms and cancelling curbs on interest rates.

Kuwait is projecting a 1,502 billion dinars (\$5 billion) budget deficit in 1994/95, after a 1,223 billion dinars (\$4 billion) deficit in 1993/94.

The emirate said in November it planned a 25 per cent cut in spending on construction and other projects, a move seen as an attempt to reduce the budget deficit and pay for the U.S.-led military buildup prompted by Iraq troops deploying near Kuwait's border in October.

Kuwaitis are long-used to a welfare state that provides public services free or at minimal cost, and supplies government jobs to virtually all Kuwaiti nationals who want one.

The oil emirate relies on its shrinking overseas investments to cover the growing deficit.

China unveils cautious reform for next year

BEIJING (R) — China has forecast 11 per cent growth this year but warned of a second year of high inflation in 1995 as income gaps widen, law and order deteriorates and ailing state industries await reform.

The People's Daily carried a front-page report and commentary on the annual four-day economic work meeting to set what turned out to be a cautious economic agenda for 1995.

The meeting's communiqué listed rising inflation, the weakness of agriculture, the plight of state firms and deteriorating law and order in some regions as the most serious problems to be addressed.

The communiqué appeared to reflect a cautious compromise of the different opinions within the communist party over how fast the economy should grow, how quickly state firms should be sold off and how to balance stability and growth.

There was reason to celebrate, the commentary said, with gross domestic product this year growing by an annual 11 per cent, exports and foreign investment increasing, harvest of farm crops bountiful and real wages on the rise.

But sources of public discontent were manifold, it said.

"The deep contradictions in managing the economy have not been basically resolved," it said, adding: "We lack the means to maintain a well-balanced growth of the economy."

This appeared to refer to the central government's inability to hold inflation, money supply, consumer spending and capital construction within planned targets, despite drastic reforms this year aimed at strengthening Beijing's ability to regulate.

The disparity between city and country, between urban and rural incomes was widening, with the gap even larger after two years of rapid expansion when economic growth has averaged 13 per cent — close to overheating, the commentary said.

"Some people are earning too much. For the long-term benefit of the public, we must solve this problem," it pointed out.

Serious floods and droughts in 1994 have exposed agriculture as the weakest link in the economy, it said, and ordered sufficient funds be available for state purchases from farmers while banning the issue of IOUs.

Agricultural output is lagging behind demand, forcing up prices and fuelling inflation, while farmers are circumventing state buyers to sell their produce for higher prices in the free market, creating shortages at factories.

The newspaper commentary took a middle course on the sensitive issue of inflation, at 27 per cent, the highest level since the communists took power in 1949.

While international experience showed a certain amount of inflation was inevitable, excessive levels were harmful and dangerous, and the menace could not be underestimated.

Those who argued inflation was not harmful or actually promoted development were "unscientific," it said, referring to those in the party who say rapid growth, even at the cost of high inflation, was the only way to maintain high employment and rising incomes.

Neither the commentary nor the communiqué offered much beyond previously published plans to deal with ailing state firms, which top officials have repeatedly said is the key reform target for 1995.

They repeated earlier formulas to encourage state firms to turn themselves into stockholding companies, to form combines and, for those without hope, to close down, go bankrupt, merge or be taken over.

However, the report said Beijing would try to help loss-making enterprises with debt default problems, a hint the government was seeking ways to save these firms from bankruptcy and consequent high unemployment at a time of raging inflation.

More than one-third of China's thousands of state-owned companies are in the red and draining state coffers. Many of these firms are confident that as a part of the state system they will not have to repay loans granted by state banks.

Norwegian industry fears restricted EU access

OSLO (R) — Norway's "no" vote on joining the European Union (EU) could restrict Norwegian industry's access to crucial European markets, company chiefs have said.

"The question is whether a country which in effect has quit the world can create the right conditions for an international company," managing director Erik Toeneth of offshore and shipbuilding group Kvaerner told Reuters.

Industrial leaders never feared an immediate economic setback for Norway, which enjoys low inflation and sound state finances supported by western Europe's biggest oil and gas exports.

Managing director Tom Rued of construction firm Aker and information director Eric Cameron of drugs group Helsestund Nycomed told Reuters they saw no short-term effects of the "no."

"But in the long term the situation is unpredictable," Mr. Cameron said, citing uncertainty about the future of the European Economic Area (EEA) market accord.

The EEA linking the EU and the EFTA bloc, now only Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, gives Norwegian companies virtually free access to the EU market — at least for now.

EU officials have hinted that the EEA institutional structure will now be too expensive to keep afloat.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland's Social Democratic minority government moved to control the damage of the EU vote.

Finance Minister Sigbjørn Johansen pledged to further reduce the already low state budget deficit, previously estimated at 20.9 billion crowns (\$3.06 billion) in a draft 1995 budget.

"We must safeguard the EEA agreement as long as it is possible. We must look at economic policy to make sure the 'no' creates as little problems as possible for our industry," Ms. Brundtland said.

Bahrain projects higher deficit in new budget

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain has announced its 1995-1996 budget forecasting a much higher deficit due to a fall in oil earnings and said the target was to achieve growth and create more jobs.

Spending was set at 642 million Bahraini dinars (\$1.669 billion) for fiscal year 1995 and 644 million dinars (\$1.674 billion) for 1996, an increase of five per cent over the previous year's expenditure.

Revenues were projected at 520 million dinars (\$1.352 billion) for 1995 and 530 million dinars (\$1.378 billion) for 1996.

This created a deficit of 122

million dinars (\$317 million) and 114 million dinars (\$296 million) respectively. The 1994 deficit stood at around 74 million dinars (\$192 million).

Bahraini Finance and Economy Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim, announcing the budget, said oil revenues were expected to reach 283 million dinars (735.8 million) in 1995 and 285 million dinars (741 million) in 1996. This compared with 380 million dinars (\$988 million) in 1994.

The projected decline would depress the contribution made by oil exports to the country's total revenues to 54 per cent from 63 per

cent, he said. "The main objectives of the new budget include achieving a reasonable economic growth that will help boost national income, create job opportunities for Bahrainis, attract investment and allow the government to press ahead with privatisation programmes," he told the official Gulf news agency.

Mr. Abdul Karim said the government was seeking to cut the budget shortfall but added it remained higher than the targeted level.

He said the deficit would be financed through domestic borrowing as was the case in previous years. A new finan-

cial and economic policy was needed to balance the budget given the drop in oil prices and Bahrain's output, he added.

He gave no figures but Bahrain, a minor oil state in the Gulf, produces around 40,000 barrels per day. Other key income sources are taxes and exports of aluminium from its Alba company, the biggest smelter in the region, with a production of around 460,000 tonnes per year.

Mr. Abdul Karim said the 1995-1996 budget covered 240 million dinars (\$624 million) in allocations for development projects.

South Korean leader orders major changes

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Saturday ordered a sweeping change in the structure of his government in a bid to wipe out inefficiency and strengthen the economy, the presidential office said.

The move was designed "to give renovative and full-scale reform as part of President Kim's campaign for internationalisation," a presidential spokesman said.

The spokesman said four key economy-related ministries would be merged into two separate organisations to hone the country's competitiveness in the financial and economic sectors.

Other government agencies will face drastic reorga-

nisation to weed out bureaucratic inefficiency, and 20 out of the government's 187 departments would be closed altogether because of inefficiency or duplication, he said.

The streamlining will eliminate two ministers, seven vice and assistant ministers and 23 director generals.

Presidential aides said Mr. Kim would follow up with a full-scale cabinet reshuffle before the end of the year.

Under the restructuring, effective immediately, the Ministry of Finance and the Economic Planning Board would be merged under a single minister, as would the construction and transportation ministries, the spokes-

man said.

Business circles hailed the changes but urged the government to hasten the lifting of all bureaucratic controls.

"We actively welcome this measure because restrictions on windows will be eased," the Korean Business Management Association said in a statement.

Announcement of the drastic changes was followed by an urgent meeting of top government and party officials at the president's office.

Presidential sources called the restructuring only a part of a second-stage reform drive to "ensure the survival of the country during the coming new economic order" when the World Trade Organisation (WTO) takes effect next year.

Full details of the whole reform plan would be announced "soon," the presidential spokesman said.

Other steps Mr. Kim would take, the sources said, would involve ensuring the speedy ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT),

and a drastic loosening of the government's financial and economic grip on private industry and banking.

A signal of the new mood of free market competition in the presidential Blue House, they said, was the government's decision to allow the giant Samsung conglomerate to get into the auto-making business.

The opposition Democratic Party immediately slammed the announced restructuring, saying that it had been made only to allay suspicions of favouritism by Mr. Kim over the Samsung move.

Samsung's plans involve opening a giant assembly plant in Mr. Kim's political power base in the port city of Pusan.

The opposition has also vowed to oppose the GATT ratification.

"President Kim should reject the (GATT) Uruguay Round accord to protect farmers and domestic industries," opposition leader Lee Ki-Taek told an anti-government rally in the western city of Puchon.

Sao Tome floats currency, raises fuel prices

SAO TOME (R) — The African island state of Sao Tome and Principe has floated its currency and raised fuel prices to comply with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions for a resumption of aid.

Finance Minister Carlos Quaresma told a news conference that the government would stop its crawling peg devaluation of the dobra and would allow the currency's

official rate to float in line with its free rate on the parallel market.

The U.S. dollar trades at 930 dobras in banks against a free market rate of 1,100.

Mr. Quaresma also said petrol prices would gradually rise to the local currency equivalent of \$1 per litre as demanded by the World Bank.

He announced an immediate 38 per cent rise in petrol prices to 580 dobras per litre

from 420.

The finance minister said these measures were necessary to ensure that a World Bank mission comes in January to evaluate the economic performance of this former Portuguese colony of 120,000 people and approve a resumption of aid.

The World Bank suspended the disbursement of \$23 million of aid to Sao Tome in August after the caretaker government of for-

mer prime minister Evaristo Carvalho failed to raise fuel prices and speed up the rate of devaluation.

Mr. Caresma said the new government of these cocoa-growing islands off the coast of Gabon faced "a difficult, critical and worrying economic situation" because the previous administration failed to take vital measures during its three months in power.

NAFTA critics claim trade accord eroded U.S. jobs, exports

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Critics of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) claimed that, in one year, the pact with Canada and Mexico has cost 37,000 U.S. jobs and reduced exports to Mexico by 55 per cent.

On the anniversary of NAFTA's ratification by Congress, the trade agreement has done the opposite of what President Bill Clinton and his predecessor George Bush had predicted, lawmakers and trade unions who opposed the agreement said.

"You don't have to be a mathematician to figure out what is going to happen very shortly because the trends are in the wrong direction," the Democratic representative for Ohio Marcy Kaptur has said.

The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest trade union, said that since NAFTA went into effect in January, an estimated 37,000 U.S. jobs

have been lost, many more than the 12,000 acknowledged by the government.

In the debate preceding NAFTA ratification, former independent presidential candidate and billionaire businessman Ross Perot had warned that if the accord came into being you would hear "a giant sucking sound" of jobs going to Mexico.

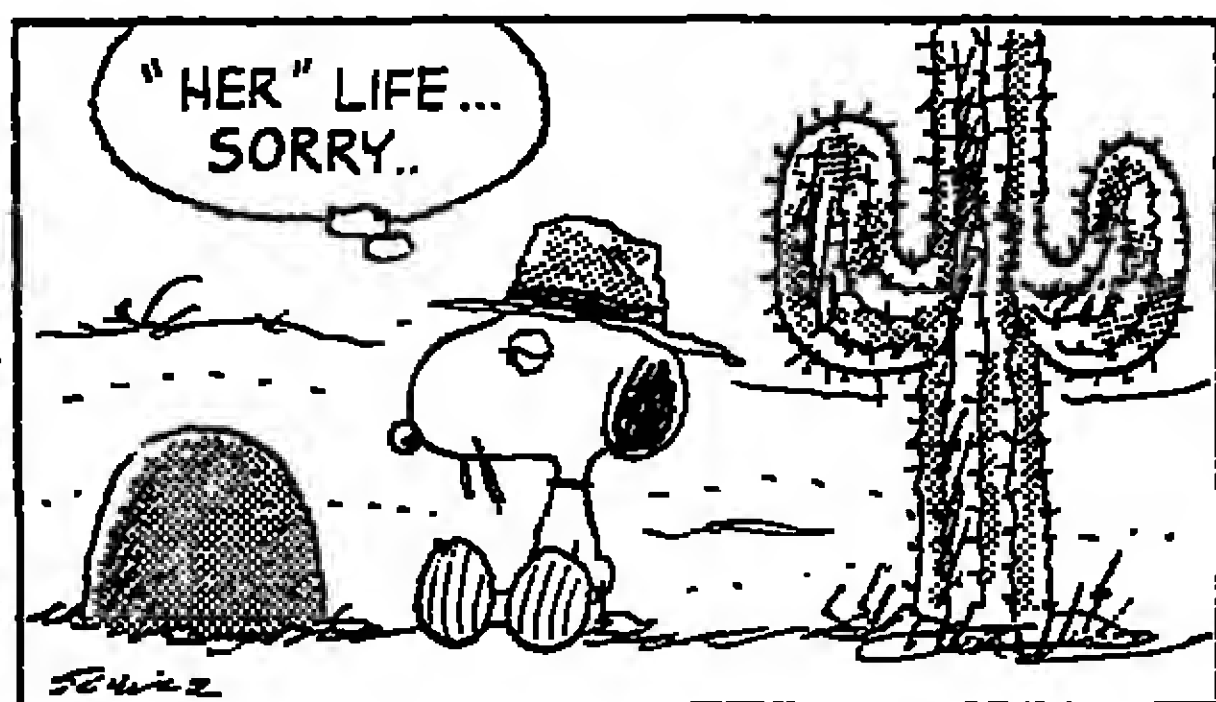
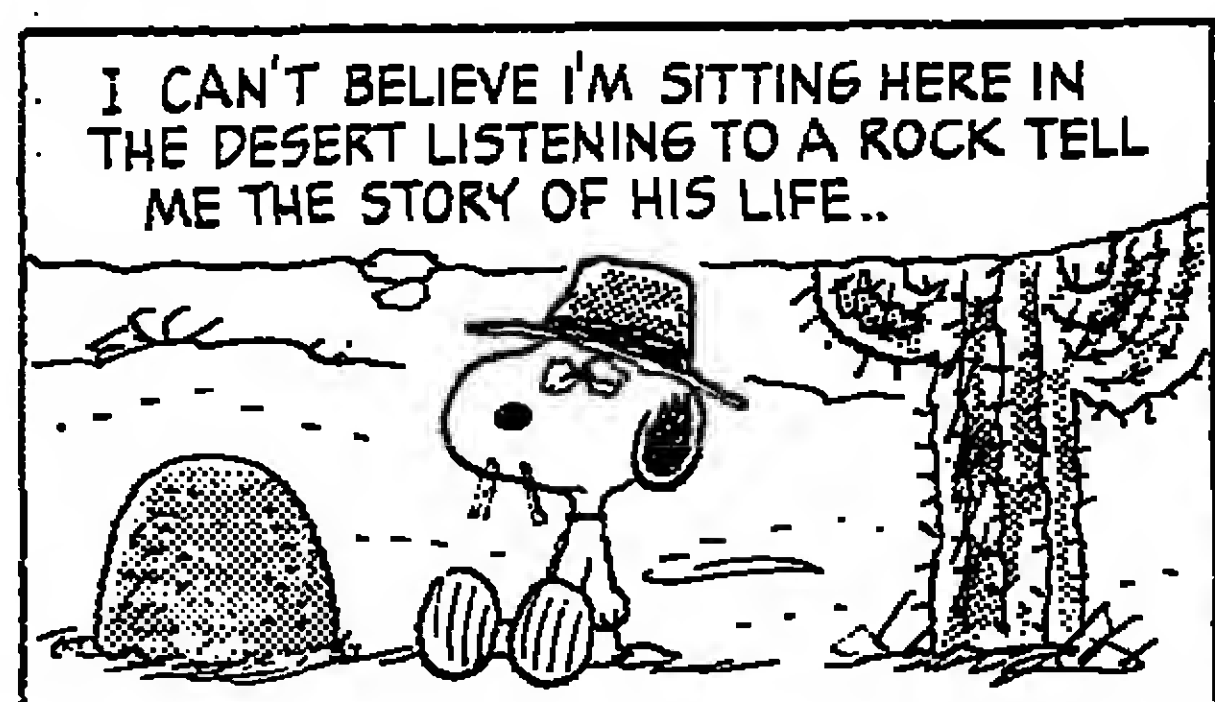
The critics also said that in the first eight months of this year, the U.S. trade surplus with Mexico fell 55 per cent to \$1.7 billion, against \$3.9 billion in the same period in 1992.

Commerce Department officials countered such arguments by saying that while 12,000 jobs were lost since January, about 100,000 other jobs have been created in the first six months of the year.

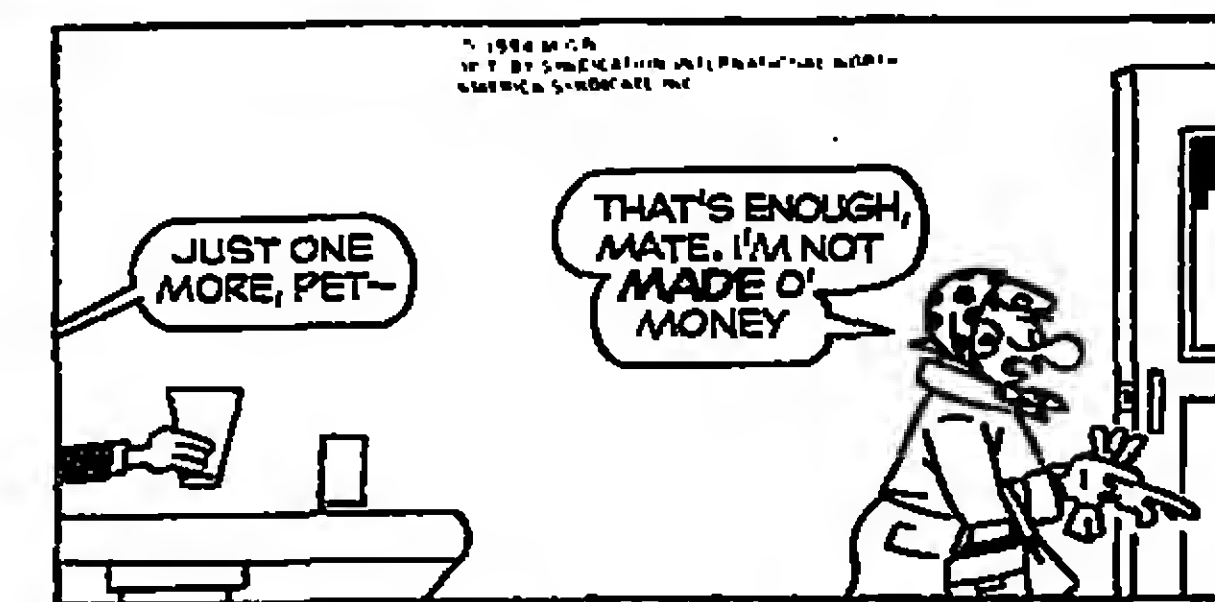
The officials also said that the trade surplus with Mexico eroded steadily last year until it became a \$45 million trade deficit in the final quarter.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

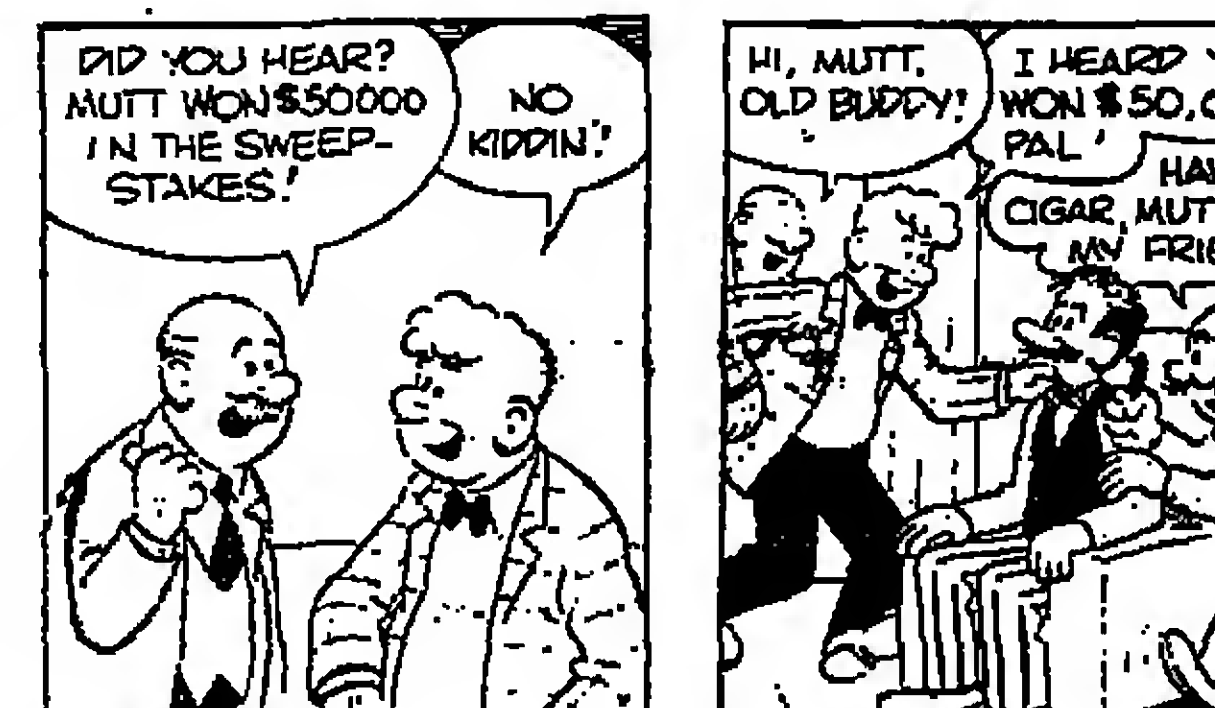
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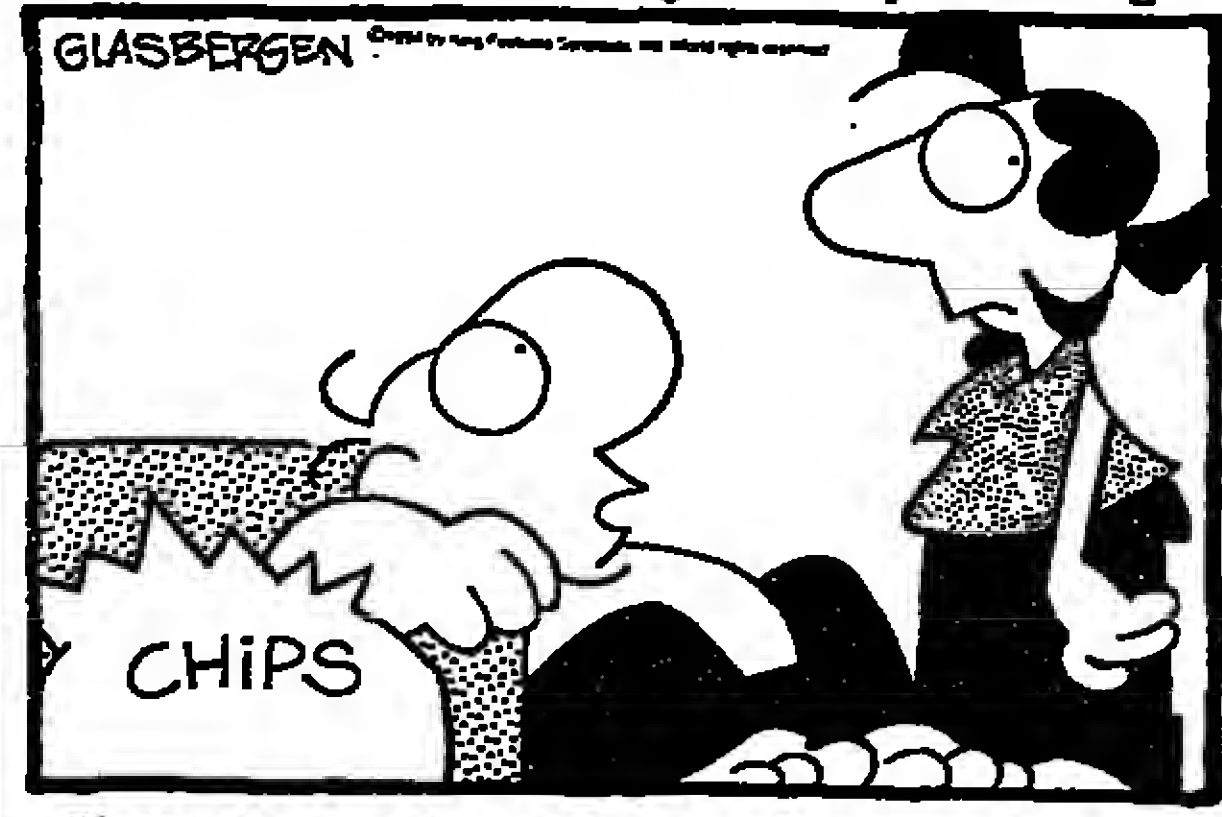
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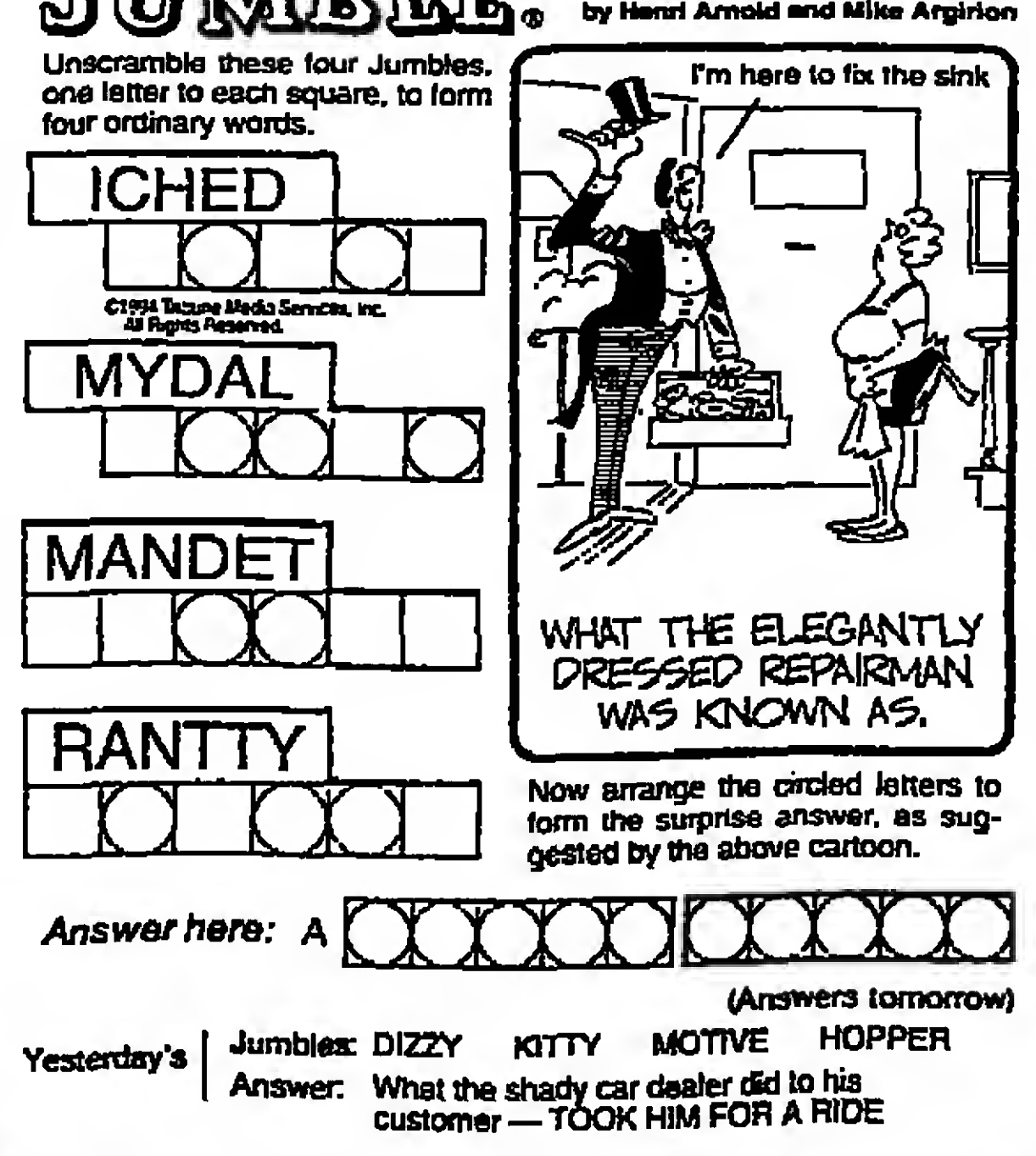


THE BETTER HALF

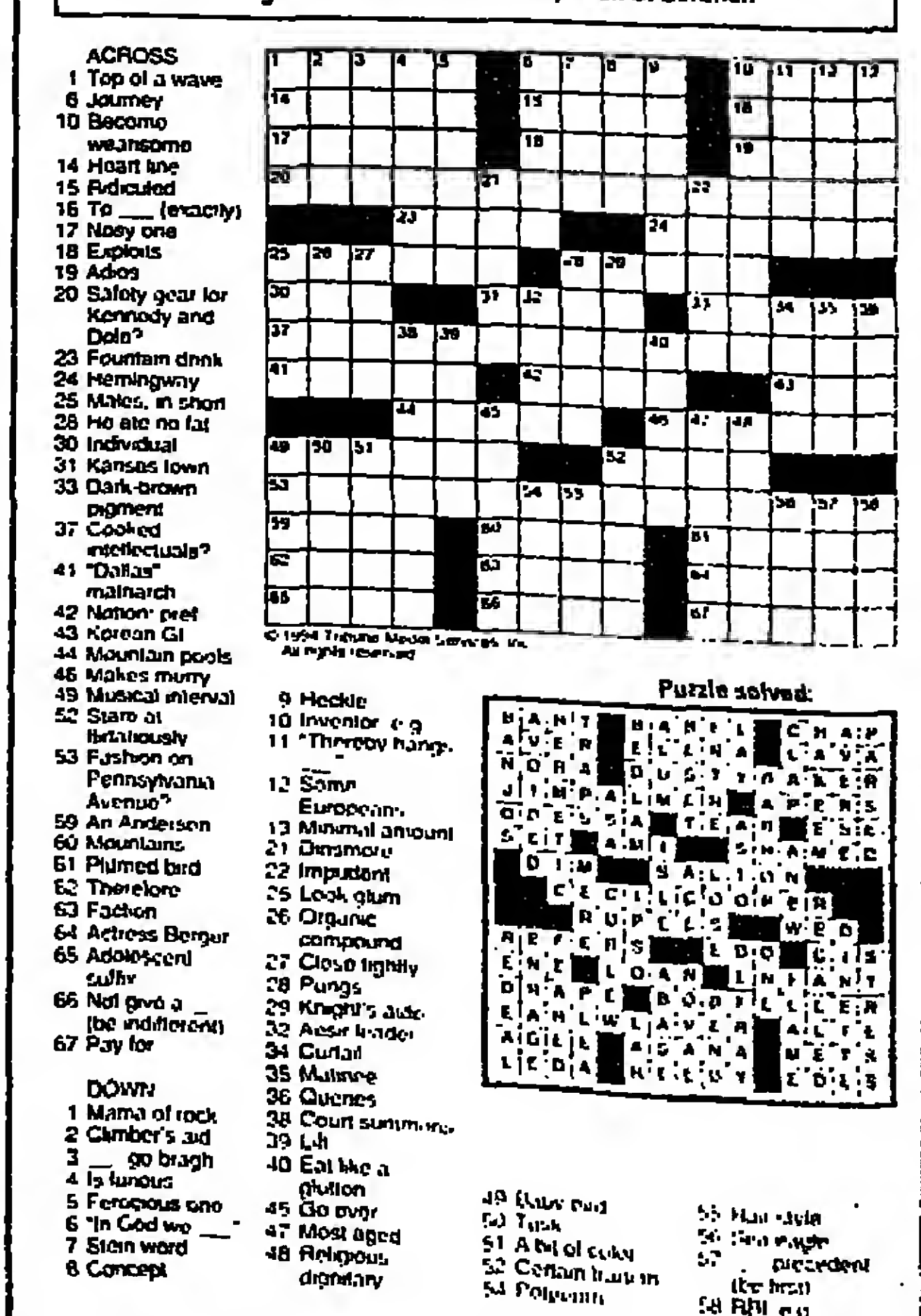


"I go to work perky and come home drained. My evil boss has a machine that sucks the life force out of me!"

JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Daily Business Beat

★ The Ministry of Finance has reminded all owners of real estate (houses or vacant land) that the last day for paying the real estate tax is Dec. 31, 1994. A fine that goes up to 50 per cent of the tax amount will be imposed if the tax is not paid by end of year deadline (Al Ra'i).

★ The Middle East Complex for Engineering, Electronics and Heavy Industries Plc, a public shareholding company that manufactures the Goldstar TV and home appliances, is requesting the shareholders to pay the second instalment of their equity. Amounting to 25 per cent of the JD 1 par value of the share, the second instalment will bring the paid-up capital to 50 per cent. Last day for paying the second instalment is Jan. 15, 1995. The company's capital is JD 22 million (Al Ra'i).

★ The general assembly of Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing, Publishing and Distributing Company which publishes Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily, has voted down a request put by the Jordan Investment Corporation to liquidate the company. At an extraordinary meeting, attended by shareholders owning 1,375,148 shares and representing 68 per cent of the total number of shareholders, the general assembly commended the steps taken by the board of directors to boost Sawt Al Shaab. Noting that the board of directors was going on the right track, the general assembly urged the board to continue its efforts to put the company on the road to success, especially through restructuring to ensure the rights of the shareholders (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ Information filtering on the General Budget department speaks of a study being conducted to raise salaries of civil servants by 30 per cent of the basic salary (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The government is trying down a fundamental solution to a troubled company in Irbid (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ Whether inside or outside the Kingdom, anyone can purchase a copy of the official gazette which is issued by the Ministry of Finance (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The Jordan Press Publishing Company, which publishes Al-Dustour Arabic daily, has raised its capital to JD 500,000 to JD 1.5 million. The capital increase was taken from the company's reserves and retained earnings and given to shareholders registered on Nov. 15, 1994 in the form of free shares at a rate of 50 per cent or half share for every share ownership (Al Dustour).

★ The Economic Consultative Council will hold meeting Monday to discuss the peace effects on the economy and interaction of the private and public sectors to achieve greater benefits. The council, headed by prime minister, will also discuss the draft legislation to encourage investment and a study on investment incentives (Al Dustour).

★ Farid Theodosy has been appointed as deputy general manager of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB). Mr. Theodosy has been an IDB staff member for more than thirty years (Al Dustour).

Samir Shafiq Ghawi

UAE urged to split shares to end market monopoly

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) banks and companies should split their shares into smaller units to activate the stock market and end a monopoly by major investors, dealers have said.

Steady profits by most trading institutions over the past years and lack of other key investment sectors in the region have pushed up the prices of some shares nearly nine times, scaring away small investors and allowing a minority of rich businessmen to tighten their grip on the market, they said.

Although strong performance of most trading institutions has offset the recent sharp rise in interest rates, the stock market remained smothered by soaring real costs of shares and lack of new share floatations.

"The market value of some shares has multiplied over the past years, becoming out of the reach of small investors and falling in the hands of major investors," said Ziad Dabbas, sharedealing director at the government-controlled National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD).

"This should prompt com-

panies to split the face value of shares into 10 shares. This will expand the base of investors and stimulate the market," he pointed out.

Mr. Dabbas, in his weekly report, cited the state-run telecommunication Etislat, the UAE's biggest joint stock company with a paid up capital of around 1.5 billion dirhams (\$408 million).

He said Etislat's steady profits and the limited number of major trading institutions in the market has pushed its share's face value of 100 dirhams by more than nine times.

The market value of the shares of the Abu Dhabi National Hotels Company and Al Ain National Insurance Company has also jumped by more than nine times while the share of Abu Dhabi Aviation and the Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company soared by more than seven times, Mr. Dabbas said.

"There is no doubt splitting the share's face value will boost the market and attract more investors as it will sharply increase the available shares," said Zuhair Kaswani, another leading UAE stockbroker.

Around 40 banks and companies effectively trade their shares in the UAE, with their market capitalisation soaring to nearly \$9 billion this year from less than \$4 billion in 1985.

Lebanon unions reject pay increases

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's labour unions rejected pay raises for public and private sector workers ordered by the government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, saying they would continue to press for higher wages.

"We categorically reject the cabinet's resolutions on Thursday and consider they do not meet the bare minimum of the unions' and popular demands," Elias Abou Rizk, head of the General Labour Confederation (CGTL), said Friday.

The government decision, ordered a 25 per cent minimum wage increase. Workers who were paid more than the minimum would get a 20 per cent increase.

Mr. Abou Rizk, speaking after a meeting, unions on Friday night, said the unions would continue to press for an all-round 88 per cent rise for Lebanon's estimated 500,000 private and public workers backdated to July.

Labour Minister Abdullah Al Amin, who said all workers would receive child schooling and transport allowances, said on Thursday the pay hikes were not sufficient but that the cash-strapped government could not do more.

Oman invites investors for major projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oman wants investors from the Gulf, Japan, France and other countries to contribute to major projects in gas, petrochemicals and other fields.

The effort is part of large-scale reforms designed to neutralise the impact of volatile oil earnings on its economy.

More than 500 investors will gather in Muscat this month for an international conference which will highlight new opportunities and government incentives, including full ownership for foreigners.

"The conference is part of Oman's economic openness to the world and is intended to shed light on the new investment laws and incentives offered by the government to local and foreign investors," said Mahmood Jarwani, director of the Muscat Stock Exchange, which is organising the two-day meeting.

"We will tell foreign investors that they now can fully own some projects which we find will serve the national economy. They will also receive attractive incentives, including a 10-year tax exemption and other technical and administrative facilities," he told AFP by telephone.

Mr. Jarwani said the Dec. 5-6 conference would include papers detailing the new projects to be set up by the government in participation with the private sector, including infrastructure, gas, petrochemicals, power and industry.

He said local and foreign investors would be allowed to subscribe to a \$700 million petrochemical complex and the planned gas liquefaction plant, estimated to cost between \$6 billion and \$9 billion.

The plant is expected to produce nearly six million tonnes of LNG when it is completed in the year 2000 and Oman has already started negotiations with potential buyers in Asia, a main importer of Gulf gas.

Oman will be the first Gulf state to admit the private sector into its energy industries, which have remained monopolised by the government in other regional countries on the grounds they are strategic industries.

But some of them are now considering ending the monopoly to secure funds for expansion projects due to a sharp decline in their oil earnings.

The decline has prompted Oman and other Gulf oil producers to embark on economic reforms that involve privatisation, improvement of investment laws and increasing government incentives, and opening up their

stock markets.

The biggest reform programme is carried out in Oman, where five key government institutions have been sold to the public and several projects are planned to be established with a large private ownership.

Apart from the LNG and petrochemicals, the ventures include two electricity plants in Salalah and Minah at a cost of around \$599 million, and a similar project in Salalah at a cost of \$130 million.

Subscription for the power plant in Minah in central Oman opened on Nov. 10 and will close on Dec. 10. Officials said subscription was open for local and foreign investors and it involves nearly 11.56 million shares, with a value of one Omani riyal (\$2.6) each.

The subscription will cover the remaining capital of the United Power Company, which has just been created with a capital of 28.9 million riyals (\$75.14 million) to manage the Minah electricity project, with total investment of around \$3.2 million riyals (\$216.3 million).

The Muscat conference, entitled "doors opening to the world" is the first in Oman, which produces around 800,000 barrels per day of oil.

ABU DHABI FINANCIAL MARKET					
ABU DHABI FINANCIAL MARKET - INDEPENDENT					
CHARTERED MARKET BOARD PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 03/12/1984					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	TRADED VOLUME	PRICES		CLOSING PRICE
			OPEN	PRICE	
ABAH BANK					
ABAH NATIONAL BANK	246	44,160	14,020	14,020	14,000
ABU DHABI BANK	4,000	12,774	3,180	3,180	3,180
AFRIFAAL INVESTMENT BANK	2,940	53,863	2,510	2,510	2,530
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	894	2,500	2,500	2,500
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,797	58,868	3,070	3,070	3,070
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,850	51,164	2,710	2,710	2,710
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	18,750	3,710	3,710	3,710
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	107,132	1,100	1,100	1,100
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	3,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	4,875	4,875	4,875	4,875
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	13,132	1,880	1,880	1,880
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	6,511	1,880	1,880	1,880
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	10,320	16,712	2,570	2,570	2,580
AL FALAJ INVESTMENT BANK	2,400	10,320	2,570	2,570	2,580
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Morceli, Joyner-Kersee named athletes of the year

MONTE CARLO (AP) — Algerian distance runner Noureddine Morceli and U.S. heptathlete Jackie Joyner-Kersee were named Athletes of the year Friday by the International Athletic Federation.

Morceli, 24, set a few world records in the 3,000 metres, was unbeaten in the mile and 1,500 metres and won the men's IAAF Mobil Grand Prix overall title this season.

Morceli received 3,203 points in voting by 1,500 track and field experts from around the world.

Cuban high jumper Javier Sotomayor, who won the Grand Prix and Goodwill Games titles, finished second with 2,721 points. Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergei Bubka, who set his 17th outdoor world record, was third with 2,682.

Joyner-Kersee, the reigning Olympic champion and world record-holder in the heptathlon, topped the women's voting with 3,067 points. In 1994, she won the women's overall Grand Prix title, took gold in the heptathlon at the Goodwill Games and twice jumped 7.49 metres, matching the second-best mark in history and setting an American record.

Finishing second was Russian sprinter Irina Privalova with 2,356 points, and Ireland's distance runner Sonia O'Sullivan was third with 2,320.

The awards were presented at the annual IAF gala by Prince Albert of Monaco and Primo Nebiolo, President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).



Noureddine Morceli



Jackie Joyner-Kersee

LeMond to hang up his bike

NEW YORK (AP) — Greg LeMond, America's triple winner of the Tour de France, is to announce his retirement from cycling, the New York Times reported.

LeMond, who won the sport's blue ribbon event in 1986, 1989 and 1990, will make his announcement at a United States Cycling Federation event at Beverly Hills, California, the paper said Saturday.

The 33-year-old admitted Friday night that a muscle problem has prevented him from reaching his best form.

"I have a muscular-type disorder," he told KNTV television in Sacramento. "They're not sure what causes it. I may not be able to win the Tour de France, but I can still beat a lot of people on my bike."

LeMond, the first American to win the Tour, had dominated the sport before the emergence of Spain's Miguel Indurain, who has won the French race for the past four years.

The American is expected to move into team management or television commenting.



Greg LeMond

Lithuania surprise leader in Chess Olympiad

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuania has emerged as the surprise leader after crushing Chile 4-0 in the Chess Olympiad and scoring a maximum 8 out of 8 in the men's section.

A late-night win Friday pushed Lithuania ahead of Croatia and Bosnia, who are playing under the banner of Yugoslavia. Croatia and Bosnia scored 7.5 out of a possible 8 after beating Bangladesh 3.5-0.5.

Russia, the event's favourite, again omitted Garry Kasparov from its team and only managed to score 3-1 against Cuba, conceding two draws.

Kasparov has promised to play Saturday and the Russians are still expected to win the event held at the Cosmos Hotel.

The biggest upset Friday

was Kazakhstan's victory over England, which felled Nigel Short and Michael Adams, both previous candidates for the world chess champion crown.

Both Adams and Short drew their respective games, but a surprise defeat on board 3 enabled Kazakhstan to score.

The U.S. team, which was expected to beat Australia, was held back when the Australians drew the match 2-2.

In the women's section, the Georgian side, with former women's world champion Maia Chiburdanidze on board 1, is leading along with Poland and Hungary, which is fielding two of the three Polgar sisters.

Georgia defeated Bosnia 3-0; Poland bested India 3-0; and Hungary beat Cuba 3-0.

Vogt puts Liechtenstein back on skiing map

TIGNES, France (R) — Achim Vogt put Liechtenstein back on the Alpine skiing map when he won a giant slalom — the opening race of the men's World Cup season — on Saturday.

An impressive first run and a confident second leg allowed Vogt to snatch his first World Cup victory in a combined time of two minutes 30.76 seconds.

It was the first World Cup success for his country since Paul Frommelt won a slalom in Saalbach in 1988. The last giant slalom World Cup victory for Liechtenstein was scored by Hanni Wenzel 10 years ago.

Vogt, who trains with the Swiss team, beat Switzerland's Michael Von Gruningen into second place on 2:30.92, with World Cup holder Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway third in 2:31.06.

But the most remarkable achievement of the day was Alberto Tomba's swashbuckling second leg.

The Italian superstar, who ended the first leg in 22nd place, fought back in the second to leave all his rivals trailing and snatch fourth overall — sounding a warning

Auto accident leaves Seattle NFLer paralysed

SEATTLE (Agencies) — Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle Mike Frier is paralysed following an auto accident in which one of his National Football League teammates crashed his car into a electricity pole.

Frier suffered a broken and dislocated neck and his spinal cord was "severely injured," Dr. Michael Schlitt said Friday.

"The likelihood that he will play football again is zero," Schlitt said. "The likelihood of walking is very poor."

Frier has no ability to move his legs or hands and only minimal muscle function in his upper arms, the doctor said.

"He will regain a little bit more use of the arms," Schlitt said. "But it's doubtful he will have normal function of the hands."

Frier and rookie rusher Lamar Smith were being driven on rain-slicked roads by running back Chris Warren, who was arrested at the scene for investigation of vehicular assault.

The crash set the pole ablaze, requiring firefighters and bystanders to pull the players from the burning vehicle. Electricity service was out for 4,500 people for about an hour because the splintered pole went down.

Warren suffered two cracked ribs and was treated, then released, from a local hospital. Smith had spinal and ankle fractures and was hospitalized overnight.

Police refused comment on whether alcohol or drugs might be involved, but the crash continues an alarming trend of wrecks by NFL players on nights of U.S. football national telecasts. Most have been found to have driven while drunk.

Taverns and restaurants typically have NFL players whose teams are not in action hosting parties to watch games. Chicago and Minne-

sota met Thursday night in a nationally televised match.

Another such crash came October 24, following a traditional Monday night U.S. football telecast, in which Dallas blocker Erik Williams was lost for the season with torn knee ligaments. He later pleaded guilty to drunken driving.

Warren is the American Football Conference's number two rusher with 1,096 yards, only five behind leader Natrone Means.

Chiefs face Broncos

It took Joe Montana's heroics for Kansas City to beat Denver in their first meeting. This time, Montana is one of many injured Chiefs, and the Broncos are on the upswing.

That puts chiefs reserve quarterback Steve Bono on the spot Sunday when the Broncos visit Kansas City in the 13th round of the U.S. National Football League season, and Denver quarterback John Elway renews his special relationship with Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer.

Denver (6-6) comes in with playoff hopes still alive after a dismal 0-4 start. Kansas City is down to 7-5 after failing to score a touchdown in a 10-9 loss at Seattle last week. Montana sprained his foot as the Chiefs fell two games behind San Diego in the AFC West.

The Chiefs' injured players slowly are recovering, but the club still listed 14 players on the official list. Key players such as Defensive End Neil Smith, tackle John Alt and running back Marcus Allen practiced at midweek, but they probably will have limited roles if they play Sunday.

Like the Kansas City-Denver matchup, this weekend features mostly intradivisional games, such as Buffalo at Miami and New York at New England in the

AFC East division; Pittsburgh at Cincinnati in the AFC Central; Los Angeles at San Diego in the other AFC West matchup, which will be Monday night; Atlanta at San Francisco and New Orleans at Los Angeles in the NFC West; Green Bay at Detroit in the NFC Central; and Dallas at Philadelphia in the NFC East.

Also, Arizona visits Houston, the New York Giants are at Cleveland, Indianapolis travels to Seattle and Washington goes to Tampa Bay.

The long weekend started Thursday night when Minnesota pulled into a tie for first in the NFC Central with a 33-27 overtime victory over Chicago. Cris Carter scored on a 65-yard touchdown pass from Warren Moon two plays after Kevin Butler missed a potential game-winning field goal from 40 yards.

Denver decided after it fell to a 1-5 record to become more aggressive defensively. The Chiefs noticed the Broncos have won three in a row by blitzing more.

"The old adage is if you blitz and you do it efficiently, you will have success," Schottenheimer said. "If you do it efficiently, you end up getting burned. Right now, they are doing it very effectively."

Elway has recovered from some early season mistakes — three interceptions for touchdowns — to become his old self.

He passed for 382 yards two weeks ago, and Denver had just enough last week at home to beat Cincinnati in a game played in a driving wind and a minus-2 wind chill.

"The goal was to get to .500 and dig ourselves out of the hole," Elway said. "It seemed like the harder we tried, the worse it got. At 0-4, we wanted to start brand new, clean the slate. At 0-4, you're not sure you're ever going to win a game."

Paris St. Germain close on Nantes

PARIS (Agencies) — Defending champions Paris St. Germain closed to within four points of pacesetters Nantes at the top of the French first division on Friday when they snatched a 2-1 win in their away clash at Lens.

Nantes were held 0-0 at home by Auxerre while another of the front-runners, Lyon, shared a 1-1 draw away at Monaco.

PSG went ahead after just 12 minutes — Rai heading home a Vincent Guerin corner after just 12 minutes. But Lens, always a tough side to beat at their Felix Bollaert Stadium, drew level with a Michael Debeve penalty five minutes into the second-half after Roger Boli was brought down by Francis Liacer.

PSG clinched their win when Bernard Allou, who had only been on the pitch for twelve minutes after coming on for Jean-Philippe Sechet, slammed a spectacular 25-yard effort into the net — leaving Lens' goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz no chance.

Cannes moved up to third spot thanks to a 1-0 home win over Caen in a match which started 20 minutes late because of a bomb scare.

The stadium was searched after a phone call, claiming to come from a Corsican action group, claimed that a bomb had been planted inside the

stadium.

There were three similar but anonymous bomb threats at Monaco, but the home side's clash against Lyon went ahead as scheduled.

Bastia, who have been suspended from playing one match at their Furiani Stadium because of the angry scenes and a pitch invasion during their bad-tempered home clash against Monaco last weekend, did not play their scheduled home fixture against Metz.

Earlier in the day nearly all of Bastia's officials resigned because of the ban which was announced Thursday.

Only President Francois Nicolai and three other officials remained out of an original 26 because of sanctions judged "too severe."

"We were expecting justice and the axe has fallen indiscriminately. We have the right of more understanding," said those who had resigned in a joint statement. "Once more it's Corsican football and it's Corsica who are despised."

Bastia decided to appeal against the one-match ban.

They are also appealing the ordered replay of the controversial 2-2 draw against Monaco at a neutral stadium.

Thursday's punishments came after Bastia fans protested two referees decisions by a pitch invasion and

attacks on match officials and players.

The game was stopped in the 44th minute after Bastia fans ran on the pitch in protest, at a refused penalty and goal disallowed for offside.

The teams returned to the pitch 20 minutes later, and Bastia, 2-0 down at half-time, managed to sneak a draw.

The case of Laurent Moracchini's headbutt, which broke the nose of Monaco's Eric Di Meco in the tunnel after the match, and the behaviour of Bastia coach Frederic Antonetti, will be looked into by the league next week.

Dortmund beat Duisburg in Bundesliga

In Berlin first-place Borussia Dortmund defeated MSV Duisburg 1-0 Friday to win some distance from pursuers in the Bundesliga. Germany's first-division soccer league.

Veteran national player Karlheinz Riedle scored in the 45th minute for Dortmund, which went into the weekend's round only one point ahead of Werder Bremen. Bremen now plays away at Karlsruhe.

In Friday's only other game, Stefan Kuntz scored in the 31st minute to give Kaiserslautern a tough 1-1 tie at home with 1860 Munich. Bernhard Winkler headed in a goal for Munich in the 54th minute.

Joe Montana denies retirement reports

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (Agencies) — An angry Joe Montana, likely to miss his first game of the season Sunday due to a foot injury, denied a newspaper report he plans to retire after this National Football League season.

"It's ridiculous," Montana said. "I have got a sprained ankle and some guy writes I'm retiring. It's irritating. It's irritating you have to put people through this. It's irritating I should have to stand here and go through this."

The New York Daily News reported Montana, 38, would retire after this season, citing unnamed league sources. Author Gary Myers said he stood by his story despite Montana's comments.

Montana suffered a sprained upper arch and injured ligaments near his left ankle in a 10-9 loss last Sunday at Seattle. Montana said his chances are "pretty slim" of playing for the Chiefs (7-5) in Sunday's home game against Denver (6-6).

Montana has a chance to become the first quarterback to win five Super Bowls and

the first to win it for two different teams if he leads the Chiefs to the title this season.

Prior to sustaining the injury, Montana became only the fifth player in NFL history to reach the 40,000-yard career passing plateau.

Montana has 40,102 passing yards in his career and joined Dan Fouts, Dan Marino, Fran Tarkenton and Johnny Unitas in the 40,000-yard club. In just two seasons as a member of the chiefs, Montana has passed for 4,998 yards.

Montana spent the first 14 years of his career with the San Francisco 49ers before being traded to Kansas City at his own request in April 1993. He led the 49ers to Super Bowl titles after the 1981, 1984, 1988 and 1989 seasons.

Earlier this year, Montana was named to the NFL's 75th anniversary all-time all-star team.

The Chiefs are currently 7-5, two games behind the San Diego Chargers in the AFC West with four games left to play in the regular season.



Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci and her fiancé, U.S. gymnast Bart Conner greet the audience after performing at Bucharest's largest arena during their 10-day visit (AFP photo)

Comaneci to wed in Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Nadia Comaneci ended her homecoming tour of Romania Friday, promising to return next year to marry her fiancé and fellow-gymnast Bart Conner.

Comaneci, who in 1976 became the first gymnast to score an Olympic perfect 10, was feted as a national hero on her first return to Romania since fleeing into self-imposed exile five years ago.

"I'm happy because people didn't forget me," Nadia told reporters at Bucharest's Otopeni Airport.

Conner, a double gold medalist at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, said they would marry next year and have ceremonies in both the United States and Romania.

Their engagement was formally blessed by the Romanian Orthodox Church during Comaneci's 10-day stay, all carefully crafted and documented for a forthcoming U.S. television story.

During her trip, Comaneci visited Deva, the gymnastics boathouse exploited by ex-

ecuted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to provide symbols of the triumph of communism.

The 32-year-old Comaneci also performed in a gymnastics show wearing a crimson leotard and showing that what she had lost in sprightliness she had gained in glamour since winning three gold medals as a 14-year-old in Montreal.

Comaneci, a favourite of the Ceausescus, made a point of spending time with the country's new leadership.

Her visits with President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu became a matter for political debate in Romania with opposition politicians complaining that Comaneci had left them off her itinerary.

Comaneci has never fully explained why she left the country just a month before the Christmas 1989 revolution that toppled Ceausescu or why it has taken her five years to return from her new life in the United States.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

*AJ85 ♠75 ♣83 ♠1083

The bidding has proceeded:

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Because of your fit for partner's hearts your hand is just worth a game try. The obvious move is to bid three hearts. Reverse, our red suit holdings and we would be content to play in a partial.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

*AQ873 ♠104 ♠Q7 ♠J6

The bidding has proceeded:

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Any new-suit response to a weak two-bid is forcing to at least three of opener's suit. Here you have three-card support for partner's suit when you might have had a singleton. Show it by raising to four hearts.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

*K ♠6432 ♠KJ762 ♠Q96

The bidding has proceeded:

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You have a maximum no trump, four-card support for hearts and your king of spades must be a valuable filler for partner's first bid. Raise to three hearts. Even four hearts is not beyond the pale.

but let partner make the decision.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

*A ♠6 ♠AQ1064 ♠K97852

What is your opening bid?

A.—The opening bid is so much with the first bid as with the second. response forces you to rebid two clubs and that could result in missing a superior partial or even a game in diamonds. If you open one diamond, you will have an easy two-club rebid and get both suits into the auction.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

*A852 ♠A104 ♠J53 ♠J75

The bidding has proceeded:

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Depending on system, partner is limited to a maximum of 15 points. Even should North hold an absolute maximum, some would be doubtful, since you might not have a source of tricks. Therefore, there's no reason to endanger a safe partial.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

*K97653 ♠K107653 ♠K ♠Void

As dealer, what action do you take?

A.—What a horrible hand. We certainly understand if you choose to open one spade. However, we don't like opening a hand with no sure defensive trick and, if we do open, halt the auction at the current level. Pass and hope someone opens, so you can back into the auction.

Save water.... every drop counts!

Dubai International Rally Sulayem sweeps another victory; Bakhashab retains Group N crown

DUBAI (AP) — Middle East champion Mohammad Bin Sulayem swept to his eighth Dubai International Rally victory in 10 years Friday after his two main challengers found frustration on the second leg.

Michel Saleh, leader for much of the first day and lying third overnight, went out within yards of the morning's restart after a vain attempt to replace a broken drive shaft.

The Victory Rally Team's Khalifa Al Mataywi, attempting to hold onto a diminishing advantage over Sulayem, lost the lead after being held up by Nasser Khalifa Al Attiya's ailing Toyota.

Mataywi lost two-and-a-half minutes to Sulayem's Ford Escort and the Arab World's No. 1 driver went on to the finish with a winning margin of almost four minutes.

Sulayem's triumph gave Ford the Middle East Manufacturers' Championship for the first time. The consolation for Mataywi was that his second place gave him his first United Arab Emirates Championship and the runner-up spot in the regional series at the first attempt.

Finishing third in his Toyota, Saudi Arabia's Middle East Group N Champion, Abdullah Bakhashab, completed a hat-trick of production-class wins in Dubai.

Hindered by a misfiring engine for most of the day, Sharjah's Sheikh Abdullah Al Qasbi took his Mitsubishi Galant to fourth place ahead of Kenya's Khaled



The Arab World's No. 1 driver Mohammad Bin Sulayem

Aslam and the Mitsubishi Galant of Britain's Peter Cherry who secured second place in the Middle East Group N Championship. Despite being edged out of a top-10 place after her

Group N Volkswagen Golf got stuck in soft sand, British ladies champion Stephanie Simmonite underlined her obvious talent by finishing 11th and also winning the ladies prize.

Final results:

1. Mohammad Bin Sulayem - Ford Cosworth 2:17:47
2. Khalifa Al Mataywi - Toyota Celica 2:21:41
3. Abdullah Bakhashab - Toyota Celica 2:32:22
4. Abdullah Al Qasbi - Mitsubishi Galant 2:42:41
5. Khalid Aslam - Volkswagen 2:47:36

Middle East championship results:

1. Mohammed Bin Sulayem 87 points.
2. Khalifa Al Mataywi 58 points.
3. Abdullah Bakhashab 46 points.
4. Sheikh Sobhi Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum 35 points.

Yeltsin entry sparks Davis Cup controversy

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin was bad luck for Russian tennis on Friday, and Sweden's Davis Cup team hopes to see him again soon.

The Russian president and his entourage interrupted play at a critical moment in the tense fifth set of Stefan Edberg's match against Alexander Volkov. Edberg, energized by the pause, ended Volkov's come-from-behind drive and led Sweden to a 2-0 singles sweep, winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 0-6, 8-6.

Magnus Larsson, ranked 19th by the ATP Tour, went on to defeat No. 11-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov in another five set thriller, 6-0, 6-2, 2-6, 2-6, 6-3.

The losses disappointed the whistling, foot-stomping hometown crowd of 12,000 at Olympic Stadium, and likely doomed Russia's chances of becoming the first unseeded team to win the Davis Cup.

On Saturday, Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy must upset the top-ranked doubles team and recently crowned ATP Tour doubles champions Jonas Bjorkman and Jan Apell to keep their hopes alive and send the best-of-five match to Sunday's reverse singles.

Kafelnikov accused Yeltsin of ruining Volkov's concentration, unlike other fans, a smiling and waving Yeltsin took his seat without waiting for the brief break when the players change sides.

"Do you remember what the score was when the president arrived?" Kafelnikov said later. "It was 5-5. Is there a switch then? What sensible person in a decisive game like this, with the score 5-5, would do something like that in such a tense situation?"

Volkov, however, did not



As International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch (right) looks on, Russian President Boris Yeltsin gestures at the Davis Cup tennis match between

Stefan Edberg and Alexander Volkov in Moscow Friday (AFP photo)

blame Yeltsin.

"I couldn't have failed to notice when the president arrived," he said. "(But) I can say it interfered with my game as much as rain outside would have, because I had lost my serve by then."

Edberg said he didn't realize until later that it was Yeltsin who had caused the delay. But considering the outcome, "maybe I should thank Boris for coming in," he said.

Larsson said he hopes to see more of Yeltsin.

"I wish him welcome tomorrow for doubles," he

said. "But maybe he can come in during the changeover next time."

Volkov held match point on his serve leading 5-4 when Edberg sent a backhand down the line to send it to deuce. He went on to break Volkov and then earned the critical break in the final game.

"Maybe he played it a little safe," Edberg said about facing match point. "I took charge of the match in that game. I took a few chances and it paid off."

After winning the first two sets, the seventh-ranked

Edberg appeared en route to an easy victory. But buoyed by the flag-waving, cheering crowd, Volkov battled back in the third set, punctuated with a crowd-pleasing ace to take the tiebreaker.

Volkov, 27, then dominated Edberg in the fourth set with devastating passing shots and seemed set to take the match, serving for the victory in the final set.

"I needed to kick myself, especially in the fifth set," Edberg said. "I was a little bit depressed. I had the match in my hand and became defensive...I felt I was

getting closer and closer in every game in the fifth set."

Friday's loss was Kafelnikov's first in eight Davis Cup matches. His only other loss was in his debut to Germany's Michael Stich in March 1993.

Kafelnikov said he felt "mental and psychological pressure" after Volkov's dramatic defeat, and said he said he injured his left wrist in the second game of the last set. He strained the same wrist last week.

"It didn't really hurt but I felt very insecure. I couldn't hit slices," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Two groups offer to buy Oakland A's

OAKLAND (R) — Two groups have come forward with bids to buy the Oakland Athletics baseball team and keep it in Oakland, the Oakland Coliseum said Friday. One group of investors, the Northern California Sports Development Group, said it offered \$85 million for the team. The group of Northern California businessmen includes Kevin McClatchy, heir to a newspaper chain, and Fred Anderson, part owner of the National Basketball Association's Sacramento Kings.

Taffarel joins Japanese club

ROME (AFP) — Brazil's World Cup winning goalkeeper Taffarel will play for Japanese side Cerezo Osaka next season, he announced on Friday. Taffarel, after a long period on the sidelines, accepted the proposal of Parma club director general Gianbattista Pastorello who had been in contact with Japanese officials. Taffarel, 28, played three years at Parma before being loaned out to Reggina for the 1993/94 season. This season, he has been kept out of Parma's goal by Luca Bucci. While hoping for prospective offers, Taffarel had played in a regional side to keep up his fitness.

Jansher takes grievance to the top

DOHA (AP) — World squash champion Jansher Khan said Saturday he has appealed to Pakistan's political leaders to help resolve his dispute with his main sponsor. Khan, the six time world champion, has refused to play for his country at the world team championships in Egypt because of a row with Pakistan International Airlines, which he accuses of reneging on a promise to promote him within the company. Khan told reporters that he has taken his grievance to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Farooq Ahmed Leghari. The 25-year-old star from Peshawar meets Australia's Rodney Eyles in the final of the \$96,000 Qatar International Tournament.

Broken mast ends race for BOC leader

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The mast of Isabelle Autissier's yacht snapped in high winds Friday, knocking her out of the BOC Challenge round-the-world yacht race, the South African Press Association reported. Autissier, the only woman in the race and the leader after the first leg from Charleston, South Carolina, to Cape Town, sent a message to race headquarters in Charleston saying: "Dis-masted, no danger immediately." An official in Charleston told S.A.P.A. the mast broke in winds of 40 knots (46 miles per hour or 67 kilometers per hour) and Autissier, of France, would be unable to continue.

Mateut returns on loan to Dinamo Bucharest

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian midfielder Dorin Mateut returned to his former club Dinamo Bucharest Friday on a six-month loan from Italian Serie A team Reggina. Mateut, 29, who has played 64 internationals for Romania, said he expected to play for Dinamo in their next league match. Winner of the European Golden Boot award in 1988-89, Mateut left Dinamo Bucharest in 1990 to play for Real Zaragoza in Spain and afterwards for Brescia and Reggina in Italy.

Qatar wins women's 500-metre race

OBHIRO, Japan (AP) — American Bonnie Blair easily won the women's 500-metre race in the World Cup Obihiro meet Saturday. Blair, the gold medalist in the 500- and 1,000-metre races at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, was timed in 41.20 seconds, 0.26 seconds ahead of Germany's Franziska Schenk, who was clocked in 41.46. The third place finisher was Japan's Shiko Kusunose in 41.49.

Knicks, Celtics and Pistons lose

ORLANDO (R) — Shaquille O'Neal's Orlando Magic could have talked some trash Friday after crushing the New York Knicks 125-100 — but they didn't.

"It's way too early to call us number one in the east," said O'Neal, who scored 38 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while thoroughly outplaying his all-star rival Patrick Ewing.

Orlando improved to 11-2, best in the NBA, and stretched its lead over the Knicks, the defending Eastern Conference champions, to 3½ games in the Atlantic Division.

"It's just one game and all that game did was tie the season series," O'Neal said. "We have to take the way we are playing now and continue it to keep our winning streak going."

Anfernee Hardaway added 33 points and eight assists for the magic, who avenged last month's loss in New York and extended their franchise-record win streak to nine games.

New York coach Pat Riley had said Thursday that the Magic didn't respect the Knicks, but Hardaway rejected that.

"Everybody on this team respects the New York Knicks because we know they are the team to beat," said Hardaway. "They are still the team to beat."

Said Orlando coach Brian Hill: "I don't know if we can play any better than we did tonight."

Orlando, which never trailed, led by 12 points after one quarter and 24 at half-time.

"I'm disappointed in my performance, disappointed in the team's performance," said Ewing, only 7-for-19 for 15 points with five rebounds. "We have to shape up and start playing."

John Starks was second on New York's scoring list with 12 points while shooting just 5-for-13. Overall New York shot 35-for-87 (.402) while Orlando was 46-for-79 (.582).

At Washington, Calbert Cheaney scored 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as the Bullets broke a six-game losing streak with a 115-104 win over the Detroit Pistons.

It was Chris Webber's first win with the Bullets, who got him November 17 in a trade and promptly dropped five



Stacey Augmon of the Atlanta Hawks slides through two opponents to get to the basket (AFP photo)

games. Webber had 18 points, shooting 8-of-11, and nine rebounds.

"We have come a long way in the last two weeks," said Webber. "We might not win every game, but we're going to be one of the most exciting teams to see play."

Grant Hill led Detroit with 28 points.

At Los Angeles, Cedric Ceballos scored 25 points and grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds to lead the Lakers to a stunning 107-89 victory over the NBA champion Houston Rockets.

The win was the sixth in seven games for the Lakers. Houston is 2-4 since starting the season with nine wins.

Lakers' centre Vlade Divac had 22 points, nine rebounds, a season-high eight assists and four blocks in his match-up against Hakeem Olajuwon, who did not play in the fourth quarter and finished with 16 points.

In Boston, Danny Manning scored 19 points and keyed a fourth-quarter surge as the Phoenix Suns rallied

from a 22-point deficit to beat the Celtics 107-102.

Dan Majerle scored 21 points and Charles Barkley added 18 for the Suns, who have won five of their last six games. Dominique Wilkins led Boston with a season-high 34 points.

In Chicago, Stacey Augmon scored 20 points, including four free throws during an 8-0 run in the fourth quarter, as the Hawks Atlanta had lost in six games at their new home, the United Centre.

B.J. Armstrong and Toni Kukoc each scored 19 points for the Bulls. Scottie Pippen tallied just nine points.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 34 points and Kevin Willis had 31 points and 17 rebounds as the Heat rolled to a 115-97 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

New Jersey, which lost its third straight, was without all-star forward Derrick Coleman (sprained wrist). Kenny Anderson led New Jersey with 16 points and 13 assists.

Balladur: World Cup preparations on track

PARIS (AP) — Premier Edouard Balladur assured world soccer chief Joao Havelange Friday that France was on course to host a successful World Cup in 1998.

But Balladur admitted his government's influence was limited.

"As for successes on the field, it's up to our national team to achieve them," he said of the squad that failed to reach this year's finals. "I wish them good luck."

Havelange met Balladur and senior French soccer officials at the close of a week-long trip in which the president of FIFA visited eight of the 10 cities that will host matches during the 1998 finals.

"With this meeting, we kick off the operational phase of organization," Balladur said. "All the essential decisions have been made. Ten stadiums have been chosen." He said his government has

agreed to pay 36 per cent of the cost of stadium improvements and infrastructure expansion, up from 30 per cent pledged by the socialist government ousted in 1993.

The major project is construction of France's biggest stadium, in the Paris suburb of Saint Denis. Balladur said the 80,000-seat Grande Stade, venue of the opening and final matches, will go under construction in the spring.

Blue Jays will not use replacement players

NEW YORK (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays said Friday they intend to honor Ontario law and won't use replacement players in the Skydome if owners start the season without striking Major League players.

Ontario Labor Minister Shirley Coppen said this week the province's law barring replacement workers applies to the baseball team.

"As far as she can determine, the Blue Jays fall under this legislation," Blue Jays chairman Peter Widdington said Friday by telephone. "If it's the law, we're not going to try to obviate the law we will follow the law."

The Montreal Expos would be able to use replacement players because Quebec law applies only to unions certified in that province.

"This is not a certified union and we have very right to do so," Expos president Claude Brochu said.

Major League players, upset over proposals to limit their salaries, went on strike Aug. 12, eventually forcing owners to cancel the rest of the season and the World Series.

Boston Red Sox chief executive officer John Harrington, management's chief labor negotiator, said Tuesday that owners intend to use replacement if the union's strike continues into the start of the season next spring.

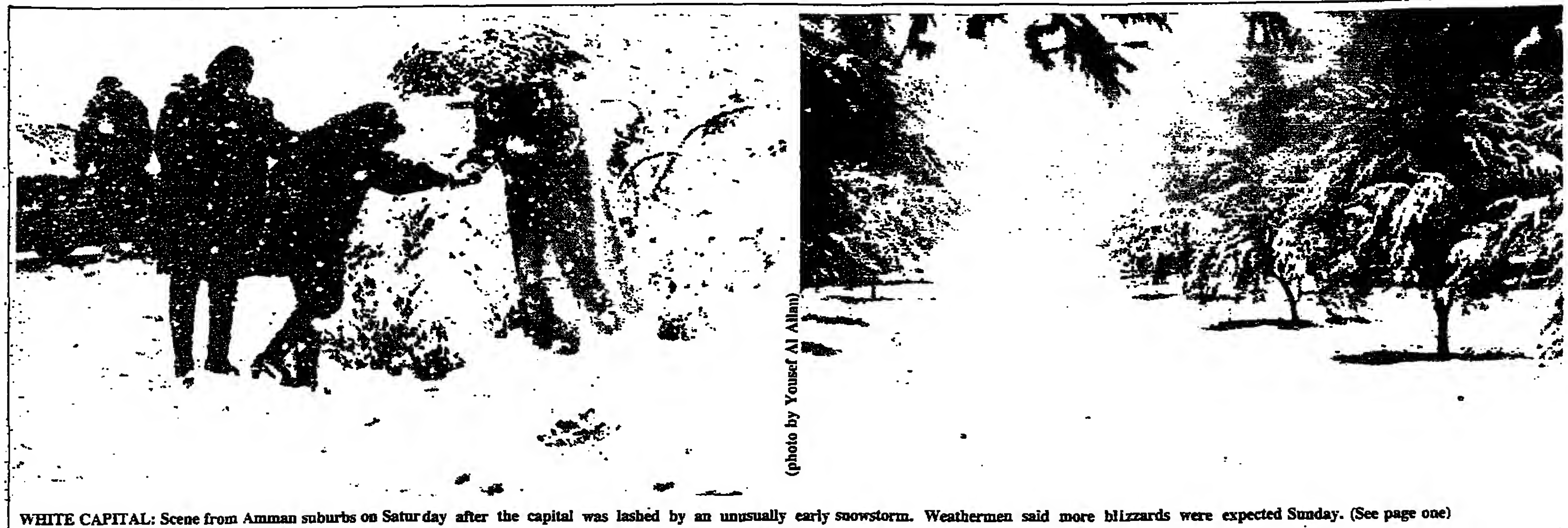
Players and owners, who aren't scheduled to meet again until next Friday,

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Foreign mission requires a female employee with at least the following:
B.A. graduate of Business Administration or English language from a reputable university, ability to translate, minimum experience of three years in similar work, computer knowledge is a must. **Qualified people need to submit their application with a reference letter with a photo no later than December 10, 1994 to P.O.Box 3080, Amman.**

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	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	The film which won seven Oscars IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	David Bradley in Cyborg Cop Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Kim Basinger...in GETA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Tom Hanks — in Sleepless in Seattle Shows: 3:15, 5:00	very soon Musa Hijazin (Suma'h) in political satire Hi...Citizen CHILDREN'S PLAY Water Is A Blessing From Heaven Time 10:00 a.m.	Thursday...Thursday 1.12.1994 You have a date with Abu Awad at the opening of the new performance of the comedy: A Punctured Bag (Qirbeh Makhzouqa) Ticket window is open all day	Presents: Al Salam Va Salam Daily at 10:00 Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. In English next Saturday and Sunday



WHITE CAPITAL: Scene from Amman suburbs on Saturday after the capital was lashed by an unusually early snowstorm. Weathermen said more blizzards were expected Sunday. (See page one)

First group of Achille Lauro survivors lands in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (Agencies) — A merchant ship brought the first shipload of Achille Lauro survivors to port Saturday, three days after a blaze on the bad-luck Italian cruise liner sent nearly 1,000 passengers and crew scrambling aboard lifeboats in the Indian Ocean.

The Liberian-registered Bar Du arrived in this former French colony port near the entrance to the Red Sea at 3 p.m. (1200 GMT), the Italian coast guard said in Rome. It said the merchant vessel carried 71 passengers from the Achille Lauro — Britons, South Africans and Italians and Irish — but did not have an exact breakdown of nationalities.

In all, two U.S. Navy ships and eight commercial vessels picked up the passengers and crew, most of whom originally took refuge aboard an oil tanker off the coast of Somalia when the Achille Lauro was abandoned.

All the other ships except one were due in to Djibouti or Mombasa, Kenya, on Sunday, the Italian coast guard said. The last ship was due to arrive Monday in an Omani port.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported that medical personnel from aboard the Italian merchant marine vessel Zeffiro went aboard the

Bar Du during the night to check up on passengers' health. It said several survivors had cuts and bruises and one passenger had a suspected appendix problem.

On Friday, as the Achille Lauro sunk into the Indian Ocean, a surviving passenger blamed the crew for dropping inflatable rafts on top of a crowded lifeboat, injuring one man who later died.

The victim was one of two elderly passengers who died as a result of the fire.

The survivors numbered 979 including crew and passengers.

Italian Consul Massimiliano Ameglio in Djibouti said most passengers had left all their possessions in the liner. The liner's skipper said the passengers were in "urgent need" of suitable clothes.

In Mombasa, ambulances from three hospitals will be lined up along the harbour quays Sunday as more rescued passengers from the Achille Lauro arrive there aboard cargo vessels and tankers.

The passengers aboard tankers, which will anchor in the stream, will transfer to tugs to get ashore, Mombasa harbour authorities said.

Hospitals in Mombasa said they had put their staff on full alert for Sunday to cope with any problems among the pas-

sengers after the ordeal of evacuation and four days in sweltering heat aboard vessels designed for crew only.

Passengers who had been dancing into the small hours took to the lifeboats in dinner jackets and ballgowns, and others came directly on deck from their beds.

Diplomats from the passengers' home countries had already arrived Saturday in Mombasa from Nairobi to provide them with temporary travel documents, and planes are expected to arrive Monday to evacuate them.

The survivors brought into Mombasa will be accommodated meantime in luxury hotels along the white sands of the beaches of the Indian Ocean resort, Italian Consul Michele Esposito said.

The Achille Lauro had been mid-way through a 21-day cruise from Genoa, Italy, to Durban, South Africa, when the fire broke out.

The passengers were listed as two Belgians, 92 Britons, 90 Dutch nationals, two French nationals, 150 Germans, two Israelis, 19 Italians, 214 South Africans, and eight Swis.

The passengers were transferred to hotels in Djibouti City while the crew will be lodged by the French army garrison in this small East African country.

Report says Iraq and Israel are still in contact

The Jerusalem Post

SECRET contacts between Iraq and Israel are continuing via former French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, the London-based newsletter Foreign Report said yesterday.

Chevenement, an ardent advocate of Iraq's "rehabilitation" who is said to enjoy warm relations with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, visited Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein two weeks ago.

The meeting according to the newsletter, was the culmination of months of secret messages between Jerusalem and Baghdad passed via Chevenement.

Saddam's priority is to convince Washington to support the lifting of U.N. sanctions

against Iraq, and he believes that the road to such a goal runs through Jerusalem.

However, Peres, who met Chevenement just before the latter's departure for Baghdad, is reported to have stressed that while Israel seeks peaceful relations with Iraq, Saddam should have no illusions about Israel's ability to affect the sanctions.

Previous reports indicated that contacts between Israel and Iraq were made both at the U.N. headquarters in New York, and through Barzan Takriti, Saddam's brother, who is Iraq's ambassador to the U.N. agencies in Geneva and effectively head of Iraqi intelligence in Europe.

Israeli officials have consistently denied that they have had any contacts with Iraqi officials.

Lebanon awaits Damascus talks

(Continued from page 1)

will be rejected," Mr. Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic, told Al Diyar.

A cabinet session Thursday exploded into a heated exchange between Hariri and Housing Minister Mahmoud Abu Hamdan.

Mr. Hamdan claimed the prime minister was trying to win approval for a real estate deal worth \$60 million at a prime location in Beirut to

make a financial killing.

In his attack on the opposition, Mr. Hrawi accused Elie Ferzli, parliament's deputy speaker and key critic of Mr. Hariri of taking bribes and of meeting secretly with Israeli officers during the 1982-1985 occupation of his ancestral western Bekaa region.

Such clandestine contacts remain forbidden in Lebanon.

PNA rejects renegotiation

(Continued from page 1)

of the influence exerted by Hamas on the media in the Gaza Strip.

One official said by curbing press freedom, Hamas, the PLO's main rival, would find it difficult to resort to the media to spread its "propaganda," especially in the absence of a newspaper owned by the authority.

Some officials cited examples of controlled media in Arab states. They said governments in such Arab states

as Syria and Iraq had at least one newspaper which acted as their mouthpiece.

Dr. Shaath told reporters after the weekly meeting of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza: "We will maintain the freedom of the press."

"I think there is nobody in the cabinet against the freedom of the press. This matter was discussed and I think the general view here is that the freedom of the press will be guarded."

2 sentenced to death in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — A military court here on Saturday sentenced two Muslim militants to death for killing two German tourists and two Egyptians in an attack at a Red Sea resort in September, the official agency MENA said.

Mohammad Attallah and Rabih Mahmoud Hassanain, armed with a knife and an automatic weapon, opened fire on Sept. 27 in a busy market at Hurgada.

Fourteen other defendants were given various terms of hard labour by the military high court in Cairo, MENA said. Five of the defendants are still on the run.

The attack, the first of its kind in the popular resort, was later claimed by the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah group.

State prosecutors had demanded the death penalty for two other men, both on the run, who are accused of helping carry out the attack. The two were sentenced in absentia to 15 and 10 years in prison.

Egypt has now sentenced 60 people to death since 1992 when President Hosni Mubarak, impatient with the long appeal process of civil courts, started sending militants for trial in military courts.

The ruling was handed down at the military base at Haekstep, which is about 15 kilometres northeast of Cairo.

Earlier Saturday, two police guards were killed and two others wounded when suspected Muslim extremists opened fire on a police station in southern Egypt, security officials said.

The extremists fled with two of the policemen's automatic rifles, the officials said.

The incident occurred in the town of Farshut in Qena province, about 465 kilometres south of Cairo.

Most of the violence has been blamed on Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

Japanese crown prince to visit Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako will visit Jordan early next year in the first visit to the Kingdom of the Japanese imperial family since 1976, Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda said Saturday.

Ambassador Ikeda, addressing the press on the occasion of the 61st birth of Emperor Akihito, also said the Tokyo government was looking forward to a "Jordan Week" to be held in Japan in May/June 1995 "to develop friendship and mutual understanding" between the peoples of the two countries.

Japan observes the emperor's birthday, which falls on Dec. 23, as its national day. The day is being celebrated in advance because of the Christmas holidays in the

fourth week of December.

Ambassador Ikeda said the Japanese crown prince and princess would be visiting Japan "very early in 1995" — indicating the visit could take place in January. Definite dates are expected to be announced later.

Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako visited four Gulf states last month and their visit to Jordan would be coupled with similar trips to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait.

Mr. Ikeda noted that His Majesty King Hussein had visited Japan four times and said that Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako would be visiting Jordan in response to an invitation by the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Emperor Akihito, who was then the crown prince of Japan, visited Jordan in 1976.

Since then no high-ranking member of the Japanese Imperial Household has visited Jordan.

However, several heads of governments of Japan have visited Jordan.

Mr. Ikeda said his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who has visited Japan three times, was expected to attend the "Jordan Week" in Japan. The event is also expected to mark the launching of Amman-Osaka flights by Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, in line with an agreement signed this year.

"Although Jordanian-Japanese political and economic relations are excellent, Japanese people do not know much about Jordan," said the ambassador. "I believe that events like the 'Jordan Week' would help advance Japanese people's understanding and knowledge about Jordan."

The visit of the Japanese prince and princess to Jordan and the "Jordan Week" in Japan take place as Jordan and Japan mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them. Ties were established in 1954 and the two countries opened embassies in each other's capital in 1974.

The ambassador said Japan, a staunch supporter of the Middle East peace process and one of the key aid donors to Jordan, "wishes to maintain and further promote its valuable ties with Jordan. The key country for peace and prosperity in the Middle East."

He expressed hope that "the existing relationship will be further broadened."

See full text of Ambassador Ikeda's statement on page 3.

'Defector' says Iraq volatile, army restive

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraq under President Saddam Hussein is very volatile, with opposition increasing each day, a senior defector asserted Friday.

"The situation inside the country is explosive. It may seem quiet and peaceful but in reality it is extremely volatile," said Major-General Wafiq Al Samra'i, who arrived at Salahuddin in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on Thursday.

Gen. Samra'i said he was chief of Iraqi military intelligence until 1991 and worked as a director-general in President Saddam's office until last Nov. 25.

Questions from Reuters and answers from Gen. Samra'i were relayed by telephone through the opposition Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation office in London.

"Iraq is in the grip of terrorism rule. With each passing day, there are fewer people that support the regime any longer. Ordinary people despise the leadership," Gen. Samra'i said.

"Many army officers want to defect. I am not the only one."

The Iraqi opposition claimed his defection would bring closer the fall of President Saddam.

"This is about the highest-ranked military defection we have had so far — I think this will open the door for more defections as people decide that the best way is to get out as he has done," said Hamid Al Bayati, executive member of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an ally of the opposition groups.

The Iraqi National Congress has its headquarters in Salahuddin. The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation is its sister organisation.

Gen. Samra'i said he fled Baghdad in response to a call from the INC leadership.

The INC claims high-ranked support in the Iraqi army and believes a popular-military move can topple President Saddam.

"The moment is opportune and reflects the overall effort to save the Iraqi people from the criminal dictatorship," said Gen. Samra'i, who said the military in government-controlled Iraq let him pass to the north because they, too, opposed President Saddam.

"Iraqis are one united people, and are basically united in their desire to topple the regime," he said. "People are convinced that the (opposition's) victory is very close."

"It has violated basic human values, human rights, set brother against brother and one person against another."

Of course it will bring closer Saddam's fall," Mr. Bayati told Reuters by telephone from London, where he represents the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which is composed of pro-Iranian Shiite Muslims from the south.

He said many people working close to President Saddam were no longer loyal, and would like to work for his downfall.

Explosions kill one at pro-Kurdish daily

ISTANBUL (R) — Explosions early on Saturday morning ripped through three offices of Turkey's leading pro-Kurdish daily, killing one person and wounding at least 22.

The biggest blast occurred at Ozgur Ulke's main offices in Istanbul's Kumkapi district, completely gutting the four-storey building and leaving it a smouldering mess of twisted metal and collapsed concrete. All the casualties occurred there.

Two other explosions destroyed the paper's smaller Ankara office and damaged a separate Istanbul bureau.

Police said two of the wounded were firemen who struggled for hours at the paper's editorial offices to put out the fires from the explosion, which sent bricks and metal flying across the street and blew out windows in nearby buildings.

Police at the daily's central offices, surrounded by the wrecks of burned out cars, said they did not have any leads.

But Ozgur Ulke journalists blamed the government, saying it was out to silence them because of their coverage of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) insurgency in the southeast. More than 13,000 people have died in 10 years of fighting.

PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan writes a regular column for the paper.

"We have no doubt it was the state that did this because they have accused us of being separatists who want to des-

stroy Turkey and this is a natural outcome of their attempts to silence us," Baki Karadeniz, Ozgur Ulke's editor, told Reuters.

"We're not even amazed that this occurred," he said. But Mr. Karadeniz promised the Sunday edition would appear on schedule. "The only thing that stops us is death."

The explosions occurred amid an already heated atmosphere.

On Dec. 8 Ankara security court is set to announce a verdict in the trial of eight Kurdish members of parliament, facing possible death sentences on treason charges for alleged ties to the PKK. None has been charged with an act of violence.

In Eastern Tunceli province, a three-month sweep by security forces has stripped PKK rebels of food and shelter. Turkish commanders say hundreds of guerrillas have been killed.

Local villagers, largely Kurds, have complained the army's tactics include the torching of their remote settlements. Thousands are now living in temporary shelters as the region's fierce winter sets in.

The apparently coordinated blasts all took place at approximately 3:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) — marked only the latest harassment for Turkey's pro-Kurdish press.

Ozgur Ulke's co-respondents complain weekly of police harassment, and some have been detained for questioning.

COLUMN

'Hollywood madam' faces 3 years in jail

LOS ANGELES (R) — Heidi Fleiss, the so-called "Hollywood madam," was facing a minimum of three years in jail Saturday after being found guilty of providing prostitutes to undercover police officers posing as Japanese businessmen. But Ms. Fleiss, whose potential "black book" revelations of rich and famous clients sent a wave of near-panic through Hollywood Studio executive suites, was found not guilty of supplying cocaine to the detectives. Hollywood heaved a collective sigh of relief Saturday after Ms. Fleiss's list of clients remained secret, but Hometown's dirty linen could still be washed in public when she faces federal charges of laundering the proceeds of her allegedly lucrative call-girl ring in a number of secret bank accounts. After returning the three guilty verdicts and one not guilty decision Friday, the jury of seven men and five women told Judge Judith Champagne they could not agree on the remaining two charges of pandering, and the judge dismissed the panel. Deputy district attorney Alan Carter, who prosecuted Ms. Fleiss, told reporters that under California law Ms. Fleiss would have to go to jail for a minimum of three years — one year for each offence — and could face as much as eight years and eight months in prison. Ms. Fleiss was visibly upset by the verdicts, laying her head on the defence table as they were read out by the jury forewoman, and slamming her hands down on the table.

Fergie wants to found charity for German kids

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Britain's Duchess of York said on a visit here that she wanted to set up a charity for German children and promised to learn German so she could keep an eye on it. The ebullient, red-headed former Sarah Ferguson separated from the Duke of York, second of Queen Elizabeth II's three sons, in June 1992. A charity called Children in Need already exists in Britain and the United States and helps children with problems, especially those with serious illnesses. "We do not have big projects but when we help children we do a lot for them," said the duchess.

Ceremonial sword stolen from Windsor Castle

LONDON (R) — British police said they were investigating the theft of a ceremonial sword encrusted with diamonds from Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle in the latest apparent security breach at a royal residence. Police in Windsor said the sword, a gift to Prince Philip from the United Arab Emirates president, disappeared from a secure cabinet in the castle's museum Thursday. There were no signs of a break-in. Police were called in by officials when they noticed that the sword and its scabbard, valued at more than £7,000 (\$10,970), were missing. Security at Windsor Castle, west of London, was breached last week by two drunken schoolboys from the prestigious private school Eton who broke in while the queen was in residence. Earlier this year an attendant at the queen's London residence, Buckingham Palace, was sentenced to 12 months in jail for stealing a £350,000 (\$548,400) Dutch master

City barred from shaving rabbi's beard

NEW YORK (R) — A federal judge Friday temporarily barred the New York State Prison System from shaving the beard of a rabbi who was convicted of kidnapping a teenage boy. U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet prohibited the system from cutting or shaving Rabbi Shlomo Helbran's beard or in any other way depriving him of his religious rights. A hearing on the matter is set for Dec. 7. Rabbi Helbran's lawyers had argued that cutting the rabbi's beard would "violate a cardinal principle of his guiding beliefs."